

Home Health ICD-9/ICD-10 Alert

Reader Questions: Base Fall Coding on Cause

Question: What are my options for a V code for recurrent falls?

North Carolina Subscriber

Answer: Your coding options will depend on the cause of the falls. Are the falls from ataxic gait, syncope, muscle weakness or cluttered? Or are you trying to treat the falls without treating the underlying condition?

We assume you are not in the home to treat the actual recurrent falls, so you are probably looking for a code to describe a personal history of falls in addition to the underlying condition, such as V15.5 (Personal history of injury) or V15.9 (Unspecified personal history presenting hazards to health).

If you are looking for diagnosis codes to identify specific falls that you are treating, however, check out the E codes where you will find a slew of codes for every type of fall, from a fall on stairs (E833.x, Fall on stairs or ladders in water transport) to a mysterious fall (E888.9, Fall not otherwise specified).