

Home Health ICD-9/ICD-10 Alert

READER QUESTIONS: Be Thorough When Coding For Infections

Question: Our patient has an implanted vascular port infected with Staph aureus resistant to penicillin and bacitracin. She also has hypertension. How should I code for her?

Texas Subscriber

Answer: Code this scenario as follows:

- **M0230a:** 996.62 (Infection and inflammatory reaction due to internal prosthetic device, implant, and graft; due to other vascular device, implant and graft);
- **M0240b:** 041.11 (Staphylococcal aureus);
- **M0240c:** V09.0 (Infection with microorganisms resistant to penicillins);
- **M0240d:** V09.81 (Infection with microorganisms resistant to other specified drugs; with resistance to multiple drugs); and
- **M0240e:** 401.9 (Essential hypertension; unspecified).

Code 996.62 describes complications involving infections to vascular catheters, including implanted vascular devices. Remember not to use V58.81 (Fitting and adjustment of vascular catheter) when the device is complicated. The V code indicates routine care of such a device.

You must report both V09.0 and V09.81 for this patient because V09.0 indicates methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and is important for statistical purposes, while V09.81 indicates your patient's further resistance.

Unless otherwise indicated, reader questions were answered by **Lisa Selman-Holman, JD, BSN, RN, HCS-D, COS-C**, consultant and principal of **Selman-Holman & Associates** in Denton, TX.