

Home Health ICD-9/ICD-10 Alert

Reader Questions: Ditch V Codes With Complications

Question: How should we code for a patient who was referred for care of an abdominal surgical wound that dehisced and became infected with staphylococcus? Should we list a V58.3 code?

-- Vermont Subscriber

Answer: Definitely do not use a V58.3 (Attention to dressings and sutures) code for this complicated wound!

To code for a disruption of a surgical wound, list 998.31 (Disruption of internal operation wound) if the disruption is internal or 998.32 (Disruption of external operation wound) if the wound disruption is external.

Follow the complication code with the code for Staphylococcus, 041.10 (Staphylococcus, unspecified). Beginning Oct. 1, if the organism is MRSA, the code to use is 041.12 (Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus).