

Home Health ICD-9/ICD-10 Alert

Reader Questions: Nix V Codes When Things Get Complicated

Question: Our patient was referred for care of an abdominal surgical wound that dehisced and became infected with methicillin resistant 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 [surgical] wound) if the disruption is internal or 998.32 (Disruption of external [surgical] operation wound) if the wound disruption is external.

Follow the complication code with the code for MRSA Staphylococcus, 041.12 (Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus).