

Home Health ICD-9/ICD-10 Alert

Reader Questions: Remove Abscess Coding Confusion

Question: Is it OK to list V58.77 (Aftercare following surgery of the skin and subcutaneous tissue, NEC) as primary for an abscess that was treated with an incision and drainage (I&D)? The infection is cleared up; now we are just assessing the wound.

-- New York Subscriber

Answer: Code V58.77 is appropriate only if the abscess is resolved. If the patient continues on antibiotics, you would code for the abscess/cellulitis, followed by the code for Staph aureus and V09.0 (Infection with microorganisms resistant to penicillans) for the resistance to methicillin.

However, if the infection is truly resolved, then you can report V58.77 in M0230 and list the code for the abscess in M0246.