

Pain Management Coding Alert

Reader Question: Drill Down for Pathological Fracture Dx

Question: If a patient suffers from age-related osteoporosis with a current pathological arm fracture, what ICD-10 code should I choose for the patient?

Iowa Subscriber

Answer: It depends on what part of the arm is fractured, and which side the fracture is on - if you can find out that information.

First: Check if the fracture was in the patient's humerus or forearm - or both. Also, check the notes to see if the fracture was on the right or left side.

Then: Use one of the following codes, or combination of codes, to represent the fracture:

- M80.021X (Age-related osteoporosis with current pathological fracture, right humerus)
- M80.022X (... left humerus)
- M80.029X (... unspecified humerus)
- M80.031X (Age-related osteoporosis with current pathological fracture, right forearm)
- M80.032X (... left forearm)
- M80.039X (... unspecified forearm).

X marks the (7th) spot: Note the seventh character "X" in each of the above codes; this is a placeholder that you'll fill in with the appropriate character from the list at the head of the M80 (Osteoporosis with current pathological fracture) code set:

- A - initial encounter for fracture
- D - subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
- G - subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
- K - subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
- P - subsequent encounter for fracture with malunion
- S - sequela.