

External Cause Coding in ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM

**Presented by
Stacey Dingman, CPC**

Chapter Title

- **ICD-9-CM:** “Supplementary Classification of External Causes of Injury and Poisoning”



- **ICD-10-CM:** “External Causes of Morbidity”
 - Reflects that codes are used to describe more than just causes of injuries
 - External causes of poisonings now indicated inside each Injury/Poisoning chapter code

Basic Facts/Guidelines


- Used primarily to describe the causes of injuries and other illnesses
- Used with any code in the range of 001-V89 when condition was influenced by/resulted from an external cause or activity
- Always secondary
- Separate index is used to find codes

Types of External Cause Codes

- “Cause” codes
- “Activity” codes
- “Status” codes
- “Place of Occurrence” codes

Per ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM: Use the full range of external cause codes, as applicable, for each situation

Types of External Cause Codes

- “Cause” codes
 - “Activity” codes
 - “Status” codes
 - “Place of Occurrence” codes
- 

*code types
have existed in
ICD-9-CM for
many years*

Types of External Cause Codes

- “Cause” codes
- “Activity” codes
- “Status” codes
- “Place of Occurrence” codes

*code types
added to
ICD-9-CM in
2010*

*code types
have existed in
ICD-9-CM for
many years*

“Cause” Codes

- Primarily identify the cause/precipitating factor of an injury or accident, eg.:
 - **E906.3 Bitten by squirrel**
 - Ex: used to explain cause of “Open wound of leg”
 - **E884.9 Fall from tree**
 - Ex: used to explain cause of “Closed fibula fx”
 - **E917.4 Walked into lamppost**
 - Ex: used to explain cause of “Forehead contusion”

“Cause” Codes—Intent

- *May* also provide information regarding intent when the actions of a person (either the patient or another person or persons) caused the injury/accident



Possible Intents

- Patient caused the injury to himself
 - Accidental injuries to self
 - Purposefully self-inflicted injuries
 - Injuries of undetermined nature
- Injury caused by other person(s)
 - Accidental injuries caused by other persons
 - Intentional assaults/homicide attempts
 - Legal interventions
 - Operations of war
 - Terrorist activities

When Intent is Uncertain

- When intent is unknown or unspecified, code the intent as
 - ICD-9-CM code as undetermined
 - ICD-10-CM code as accidental
 - Use an “undetermined” intent code only when the record specifies that the intent can not be determined
 - usually used in cases where there is *at least some suspicion* of purposeful intent

“Cause” Codes—Intent Examples

- E928.3 Accidental bite by another person

vs.

- E968.7 Assault by human bite
-

- E924.2 Accident caused by contact with hot tap water

vs.

- E968.3 Assault by hot liquid

“Cause” Codes—Intent Examples

- E922.0 Accidental caused by handgun

vs.

- E965.0 Assault by handgun

vs.

- E970 Injury due to legal intervention by firearms

vs.

- E979.4 Terrorism involving firearms

“Cause” Codes—Role of Patient

- *May* also provide information regarding the role of the patient in the situation causing the accident/injury in cases where multiple parties are involved, eg...

★ Driver

★ Occupant

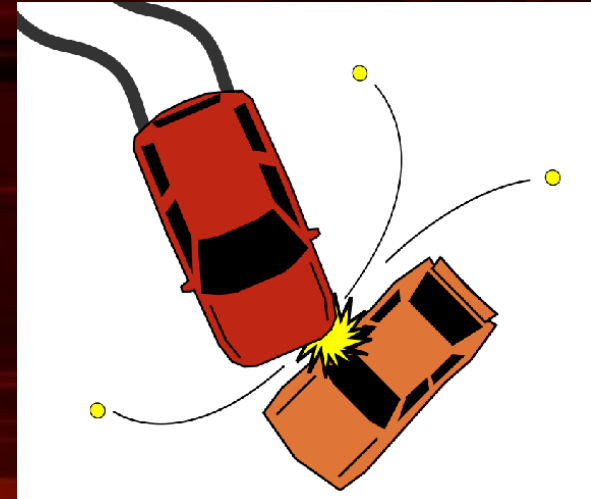
★ Animal rider

★ Passenger

★ Pedal cyclist

★ Pedestrian

★ Motorcycle rider



Role of Patient Example

- **√X7th V43.53** Car driver injured in collision with p/u truck in traffic accident

vs.
- **√X7th V43.63** Car passenger injured in collision with p/u truck in traffic accident

vs.
- **√X7th V53.5** Driver of p/u truck...injured in collision with car...in traffic accident

“Cause” Codes—When to Use

ICD-9-CM

- All E-code types used for the *initial encounter/treatment only*

ICD-10-CM

- Used for the entire length of treatment
- Different from other types of external cause codes in ICD-10-CM that will only be used for the initial episode of care
- 7th digit will indicate episode of care

Episode of Care Example

√4th

Y02 Assault by pushing or placing victim in front of moving object

The appropriate 7th character is to be added to each code from category S07

A initial encounter

D subsequent encounter

S sequela

√X7th

Y02.0 Assault by pushing or placing victim in front of motor vehicle

Exceptions to Using a Single “Cause” Code Per Situation

- Do not use “cause” code if dx code for injury/accident already identifies cause
- Will sometimes need to use more than one “cause” code
 - Use as many as needed to fully explain each cause
- “Combination” codes available that include multiple causes in one code

Injury/Accident Code Already Identifies Cause

√6th

T43.61 Poisoning by, adverse effect of, and underdosing of caffeine

√7th

T43.611 Poisoning by caffeine, accidental (unintentional)

√7th

T43.612 Poisoning by caffeine, intentional self-harm

√7th

T43.613 Poisoning by caffeine, assault

√7th

T43.614 Poisoning by caffeine, undetermined

√7th

T43.615 Adverse effect of caffeine

√7th

T43.616 Underdosing of caffeine

Injury/Accident Code Already Identifies Cause

√6th T43.61 Poisoning by, adverse effect of, and underdosing of caffeine

√7th T43.611 Poisoning by caffeine, **accidental** (unintentional)

detail √7th T43.612 Poisoning by caffeine,

indicated by ← **intentional self-harm** →

E-codes in √7th T43.613 Poisoning by caffeine, **assault**

ICD-9-CM √7th T43.614 Poisoning by caffeine, **undetermined**

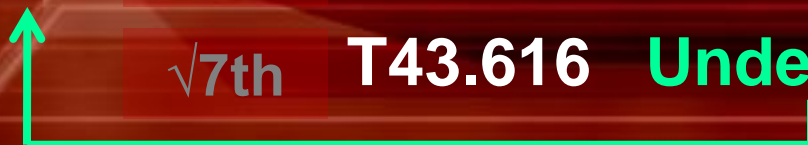
√7th T43.615 **Adverse effect** of caffeine

√7th T43.616 Underdosing of caffeine

Injury/Accident Code Already Identifies Cause

- √6th T43.61 Poisoning by, adverse effect of, and underdosing of caffeine
 - √7th T43.611 Poisoning by caffeine, accidental (unintentional)
 - √7th T43.612 Poisoning by caffeine, intentional self-harm
 - √7th T43.613 Poisoning by caffeine, assault
 - new √7th T43.614 Poisoning by caffeine, undetermined
 - √7th T43.615 Adverse effect of caffeine
 - √7th T43.616 **Underdosing** of caffeine

new concept in ICD-10-CM



When More Than One “Cause” Code Is Needed

- Use multiple cause codes when appropriate:
 - **E906.3** **Bitten by squirrel**
 - **E884.9** **Fall from tree**
 - **E917.4** **Walked into lamppost**



Combination “Cause” Codes

- Expanded concept in ICD-10-CM
- Codes that identify sequential events that result in an injury
- Actual injury may be due to either or both events
- Combination code used should correspond to the sequence of events—NOT which event caused the most serious injury

Combination “Cause” Codes Examples

- Fred fell off the toilet when he heard his wife was pregnant and hit his head on the bathroom sink:



- Lisa bumped into the bathroom sink walking around Fred, causing her to lose her footing and fall:

√X7th W18.12 Fall from or off toilet with subsequent striking against object

√X7th W18.09 Striking against other object with subsequent fall



“Activity” Codes

- Identify the activity of the patient
- Used in context of both injuries/accidents AND non-injury conditions
- Used when the injury/accident or other non-injury condition:
 - resulted from or was contributed to by the activity
 - provides additional info about the event
- Activity sometimes combined with cause

“Activity” Codes Examples

ICD-9-CM:

E910.0 Accidental drowning and submersion while water skiing

E002.6 Activity, water skiing and wakeboarding

ICD-10-CM:

√X7th **V92.07** Drowning and submersion due to fall off water skis

Y93.17 Activity, water skiing and wakeboarding

“Activity” Codes Examples

ICD-9-CM:

E910.0 Accidental drowning and submersion while water skiing

~~E002.6 Activity, water skiing and wakeboarding~~

ICD-10-CM:

√X7th V92.07 Drowning and submersion due to fall off water skis

~~Y93.17 Activity, water skiing and wakeboarding~~

“Activity” Codes Examples

ICD-9-CM:

E910.1 Accidental drowning and submersion while engaged in other sport/recreational activity

E002.4 Activity, underwater diving and snorkeling

ICD-10-CM:

√X7th W69 Accidental drowning and submersion while in natural water

Y93.15 Activity, underwater diving and snorkeling

“Activity” Codes Examples

ICD-9-CM:

E910.1 Accidental drowning and submersion while engaged in other sport/recreational activity

E002.4 Activity, underwater diving and snorkeling



ICD-10-CM:

√X7th W69 Accidental drowning and submersion while in natural water

Y93.15 Activity, underwater diving and snorkeling



“Status” Codes

- Identify whether the patient was in a paid vs. non-paid status at the time of the event
- For non-paid status, special code exists for volunteer activities—all other non-paid activities default to single code
- If the patient was in a paid/compensated status at the time of the event, codes identify whether patient was performing civilian job vs. military duty
- “Status” codes used on initial encounter only

“Place of Occurrence” Codes

- Identify the location of the patient at the time of the injury or other condition
- Only used after other external cause code(s)
 - Can be used in conjunction with either “cause” codes or “activity” codes
- Used only when place of occurrence is “relevant” or “applicable”
- Used at the initial encounter only

Special External Cause Code Categories

- Some external cause codes do not fit cleanly within categories discussed:
 - **√4th** E967 Perpetrator of assault,
√X7th Y07 maltreatment, and neglect
 - **√4th** Y90 Evidence of alcohol involvement determined by blood alcohol level
 - Y95 Nosocomial condition

“Perpetrator of Assault, Maltreatment, and Neglect”

- Used to identify the relationship of an abuser to the victim
- Used only in confirmed cases of abuse
- Used after “assault” external cause code
- Used with injury AND non-injury dx codes

“Evidence of Alcohol Involvement Determined by Blood Alcohol Level”

- Used to provide supplementary information regarding the cause of morbidity
- Not to be used for single-condition coding
- Code first any associated alcohol-related disorder (e.g., alcohol dependence) that exists

“Nosocomial Condition”

- Used to identify conditions directly resulting from a patient’s stay in a hospital or other healthcare setting
- Usually associated with infections, e.g.,:
 - surgical wound infections
 - respiratory/urinary tract infections
 - Bacteremia

“Nosocomial Condition”

- Could have been acquired from:
 - hospital staff
 - contaminated objects
 - patient him/herself
- If the patient was in a paid/compensated status at the time of the event, codes identify whether patient was performing civilian job vs. military duty
- “Status” codes used on initial encounter only

“Example #1”

Ray, a 76 year old man, was shoveling snow from his driveway when he began experiencing severe chest pain. He was rushed to the ER and diagnosed with a myocardial infarction.

“Example #1”

Ray, a 76 year old man, was shoveling snow from his driveway when he began experiencing severe chest pain. He was rushed to the ER and diagnosed with a acute myocardial infarction.

401.90 – Acute myocardial infarction NOS

E016.0 – Activity digging, shoveling or raking

E000.8 – Other external cause status

E849.0 – Place of occurrence, driveway (ICD-10-CM)

“Example #2”

16 year old, Melissa was texting while driving and failed to stop at a traffic light. She crashed her 2011 Ford Fiesta into the side of a 1983 Volvo 244. Melissa received multiple injuries and was transported to Shands Jacksonville for treatment.

“Example #2”

16 year old, Melissa was texting while driving and failed to stop at a traffic light. She crashed her 2011 Ford Fiesta into the side of a 1983 Volvo 244. Melissa received multiple injuries and was transported to Shands Jacksonville for treatment.

Multiple codes – multiple injuries

E812.0 – MVTA involving collision with other vehicle, driver

E011.1 – Hand held interactive electronic device

“Example #3”

Jerry is a professional painter. He was hired by his local post office to repaint the outside of the building. While working, he accidentally fell from his ladder and suffered a closed fracture to the proximal end of his right humerus.

“Example #3”

Jerry is a professional painter. He was hired by his local post office to repaint the outside of the building. While working, he accidentally fell from his ladder and suffered a closed fracture to the proximal end of his right humerus.

812.00 – Fracture of humerus, closed, proximal end

E881.0 – Accidental fall from ladder

E016.9 – Other activity involving property and land maintenance, building and construction

E000.0 – Civilian activity done for income or pay

E849.6 – Place of occurrence, public building

“Example #4”

Lenny was riding his unicycle in his driveway when he fell. The fall caused Lenny to sprain his lower back.

“Example #4”

Lenny was riding his unicycle in his driveway when he fell. The fall caused Lenny to sprain his lower back.

847.2 – Sprain, lumbar

E826.1 – Pedal cycle accident, pedal cyclist

~~E029.9 – Other Activity~~

E000.8 – Other external cause status

E849.0 – Place of occurrence, driveway of home

QUESTIONS?

