More of Chapter 19 ICD-10-CM
Injuries 7th Characters,
Aftercare, Follow-up and Sequelae

Wednesday, December 2, 2015
12:00 pm CST

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Faculty

**Moderator**
Denene Harper, RHIA, Senior Coding Consultant, AHA

**Speakers**
- Nelly Leon-Chisen, RHIA, Director of Coding and Classification, AHA
- Gretchen Young-Charles, RHIA, Senior Coding Consultant, AHA
- Anita Rapier, RHIT, CCS, Senior Coding Consultant, AHA

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Objectives

- Understand the Chapter 19 ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting on the use of the 7th character
- Apply the 7th characters for initial encounter, subsequent encounter and sequela for injuries and complications of care
- Identify examples of the application of 7th characters in different care settings
- Review the clinical scenarios related to 7th characters published in Coding Clinic
- Correctly select the appropriate 7th character from the most commonly asked questions from our clearinghouse service

Nelly Leon-Chisen, RHIA
Director, Coding and Classification
Use of 7th Character in ICD-10-CM

- 7th character is not used in all ICD-10-CM chapters
  - Used in Musculoskeletal, Obstetrics, Injuries, External Causes chapters
- Different meaning depending on section where it is being used
- Must always be used in the 7th character position
- When 7th character applies, codes missing 7th character are invalid

Chapter 19: Injury, Poisoning and Certain Other Consequences of External Causes (S00-T88)

- Most categories have a 7th character requirement
  - Most common
    - Initial encounter “A”
    - Subsequent encounter “D”
    - Sequela “S”
  - Fractures have additional 7th characters
    - Types of fractures and healing status for fractures
    - Open vs. closed
    - Gustilo classification
    - Routine healing, delayed healing, nonunion or malunion
Official Coding Guidelines

• Official Coding Guidelines accompany and complement code set conventions and instructions.
• To ensure accurate coding, providers must use these guidelines in conjunction with the code set.
• Adherence to the official coding guidelines in all healthcare settings is required under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
• Available http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd/icd10cm.htm#icd2014 and several other websites, apps, encoders and code books

Official Guidance on Application of 7th Characters

• Official Coding Guidelines
  – Provide guidance on new provider vs. active treatment
  – Definitions of “initial encounter,” “subsequent encounter,” and “sequela
  – Active treatment and complication codes
• Coding Clinic for ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS
  – Case specific examples for different conditions and different care settings
    • First Quarter 2015
    • Third Quarter 2015
    • Fourth Quarter 2015
  – Approved by the Editorial Advisory Board which includes CDC, CMS, and AHIMA, AMA, AAP, ACS, ACP and other coding experts
Guideline New Provider vs. Active Treatment

• While the patient may be seen by a new or different provider over the course of treatment for an injury, assignment of the 7th character is based on whether the patient is undergoing active treatment and not whether the provider is seeing the patient for the first time.

“Initial Encounter” 7th Character

• Initial encounter: As long as patient is receiving active treatment for the condition.
  – Examples of active treatment are: surgical treatment, emergency department encounter, and evaluation and continuing treatment by the same or a different physician.
• Whether or not the patient is still receiving active treatment is key
“Initial Encounter” 7th Character (cont.)

• Disregard the word “initial” – this 7th character may be used for multiple healthcare encounters as long as the patient is still receiving active treatment for the condition described by the code
• “Initial” in this context has an entirely different meaning than in CPT

“Initial Encounter” 7th Character (cont.)

• For complication codes, active treatment refers to treatment for the condition described by the code, even though it may be related to an earlier precipitating problem.
“Initial Encounter” 7th Character (cont.)

• For malunions and nonunions when the patient delayed seeking treatment for the fracture, assign the appropriate 7th character for initial encounter.

“Initial Encounter” Additional Examples

• Diagnosis and assessment of acute injury and definitive treatment (e.g., suture repair, fracture reduction)
• Malunions/Nonunions when patient delayed seeking treatment for fracture
• Referral to orthopedist for injury evaluation and treatment plan development
• Antibiotic therapy for postoperative infection
• Wound vac treatment of wound dehiscence
“Subsequent Encounter” 7th Character

• Subsequent encounter: After patient has received active treatment of the condition and is receiving routine care for the condition during the healing or recovery phase.
  – Examples: cast change or removal, x-ray to check healing status of fracture, removal of external or internal fixation device, medication adjustment, other aftercare and following up visits following treatment of the injury or condition

• For aftercare of injuries, assign the acute injury code with the appropriate 7th character for subsequent encounter (rather than the aftercare “Z” codes).

“Subsequent Encounter” 7th Character (cont.)

• Fracture malunions and nonunions are assigned the appropriate 7th character for subsequent encounter for malunion or nonunion (unless the patient delayed seeking fracture treatment).
“Subsequent Encounter” Additional Examples

- Rehabilitative therapy encounters (e.g., physical therapy, occupational therapy)
- Suture removal
- Follow-up visits to assess healing status (regardless of whether the follow-up is with the same or a different provider)
- Dressing changes and other aftercare

“Sequela” 7th Character

- Sequela (Late Effect): Residual effect (condition produced) arising as a direct result of an acute condition
  - Examples:
    - Scar formation after a burn
    - Traumatic arthritis following previous gunshot wound
    - Quadriplegia due to spinal cord injury
    - Skin contractures due to previous burns
    - Auricular chondritis due to previous burns
    - Chronic respiratory failure following drug overdose
Complications of Injury Treatment

• Care for complications of surgical treatment of injuries during the healing or recovery phase should be coded with the appropriate complication codes.
• For complication codes, active treatment refers to treatment for the condition described by the code, even though it may be related to an earlier precipitating problem.

Documentation for 7th Encounter

• Documentation for current encounter
  – Diagnoses current and relevant
  – Key to code selection is based on active treatment
• Documentation from previous encounter
  – May NOT be used to determine 7th character
    • Key to code selection is based on active treatment
  – May NOT be used to determine specific injury
Scenario #1

• 84 year-old patient admitted to LTC
• Post traumatic subarachnoid hemorrhage and subdural hematoma
• Transferred to LTC for continuation of care
Scenario #1 (cont.)

- Subdural hematoma (S06.5X0A)
- Subarachnoid hemorrhage (S06.6X0A)
- Patient was transferred for continuation of active treatment

(Coding Clinic for ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS, Third Quarter 2015, page 37)

Scenario #2

- Nonunion of a previously repaired fracture
- Fixation device removed
- Patient will now have a partial joint replacement
Scenario #2 (cont.)

• Seventh character (K, M, N):
  ‒ Subsequent care
  ‒ “A” if patient delayed seeking treatment
  ‒ Official Coding Guideline: I.C.19.c.1

_Coding Clinic for ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS, Third Quarter 2015, pages 37-38_

Scenario #3

• Patient presents for surgical treatment of a malunion
• First time surgically treated
• Patient did not delay treatment
Scenario #3 (cont.)

• Seventh character (P, Q, R):
  – P, subsequent encounter for fracture with malunion
  – Official Coding Guideline: I.C.19.c.1

Coding Clinic for ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS, Third Quarter 2015, pages 38-39

Scenario #4

• Previous open reduction with internal fixation (ORIF)
• Patient now has pain at fracture site
• X-ray shows improper alignment of fracture site
• Internal fixation pins revised
• Initial vs. subsequent encounter
Scenario #4 (cont.)

• Not the same as a nonunion
• Patient still receiving active treatment for the fracture
• Seventh character “A”

Scenario #5

• Previous encounter for motor vehicle accident
  – Wound cleaned
  – Lacerations sutured
  – F/U with pediatrician
  – Return three days later
• Wounds checked
  – Healing
  – No intervention required
Scenario #5 (cont.)

- S01.02XD, Scalp laceration with foreign body, subsequent encounter
- S01.411D, Cheek and temporomandibular area laceration, subsequent encounter
- S01.21XD, Nose laceration, subsequent encounter
- V43.61XD, Car passenger, subsequent encounter

Scenario #6

- Same patient
- Suture removal
  - Code Z48.02, Encounter for removal of sutures
- What happens with nose laceration?
  - Healed prior to this admission
Scenario #6 (cont.)

- **S01.02XD, Scalp laceration with foreign body, subsequent encounter**
- **S01.411D, Laceration of cheek and temporomandibular area, subsequent encounter**
- No code for nose laceration

*Coding Clinic for ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS, First Quarter 2015, pages 6-7*

Scenario #7

- Nondisplaced oblique fracture of right tibia
- Tripped playing lacrosse
- Fracture stabilized in ER
- Referred for follow-up care
Scenario #7 (cont.)

• S82.234A, Nondisplaced oblique fracture of right tibia, initial encounter
• W03.XXXA, Fall on same level in collision with another person, initial encounter
• Y93.65, Activity, lacrosse

Scenario #8

• Same patient
  – Orthopedic surgeon for treatment
  – Ongoing care
  – Return for follow-up in three weeks
Scenario #8 (cont.)

- S82.234A, Nondisplaced fracture, right tibia, initial encounter
- W03,XXXA, Other fall due to collision with another person

Coding Clinic for ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS, First Quarter 2015, page 9

Scenario #9

- Same patient
  - Returns to orthopedist
  - Routine healing
  - Cast change needed
  - Return three weeks
    - Moving
Scenario #9 (cont.)

• S82.234D, Nondisplaced fracture tibia, subsequent encounter
• W03.XXXD, Other fall collision with another person

_Coding Clinic for ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS, First Quarter 2015, pages 9-10_

Scenario #10

• Same patient
  – New orthopedist in another state
  – X-rays
  – Fracture almost completely healed
  – Return for cast removal
Scenario #10 (cont.)

• S82.234D, Nondisplaced fracture of tibia, subsequent encounter

Scenario #11

• Delayed splenic rupture
• Grade 3 splenic laceration
• Perisplenic hematoma
Scenario #11 (cont.)

• S36.031A, Moderate laceration of spleen, initial encounter
• V49.9XXA, Car occupant injured in traffic accident, initial encounter

Scenario #12

• Fall while skiing
• Right frontal intracranial hemorrhage
• Transferred to rehab
  – Found unresponsive
  – Back to ICU
  – Worsening intracerebral hemorrhage with edema
Scenario #12 (cont.)

- S06.340A, Traumatic hemorrhage of cerebrum, initial encounter
- S06.1X0A, Traumatic cerebral edema, initial encounter
- V00.321A, Fall from skis, initial encounter

*Coding Clinic for ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS, First Quarter 2015, pages 12-13*

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Scenario #13

- Patient treated for fracture
- Seen by different physician in same group
- Are both encounters assigned 7th character “A”? 
  - Yes
  - Provider does not affect code assignment

*Coding Clinic for ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS, First Quarter 2015, page 13*
Scenario #14

• Healed fracture status post treatment four months ago
• New provider for f/u visit
• Seventh character
  – Subsequent encounter
  – No longer receiving active treatment
  – Provider does not affect code assignment

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Anita Rapier, RHIT, CCS
Senior Coding Consultant
Applying the 7th Character for Continued Treatment in Other Care Settings

• Patients may be transferred to a Rehabilitation facility following:
  – Joint replacement surgery
  – Surgical fracture treatment
• Patients may be transferred to a long term care hospital (LTCH) due to:
  – Ventilator dependency
  – Continued intravenous (IV) medication
  – Wound care
  – Continued monitoring of significantly medically active conditions

Applying the 7th Character for Continued Treatment in Other Care Settings (cont.)

• Care provided in Rehabilitation facilities focus on returning patients to their normal functional status before the illness or injury occurred.
• Rehab services may involve:
  – Occupational therapy
  – Physical therapy
  – Pain management
Applying the 7th Character for Continued Treatment in Other Care Settings (cont.)

• Home health care may be provided post acute care discharge
  – Involves a wide range of health care services for illness or injury
    • Wound care for pressure sores or surgical wounds
    • Patient and caregiver education
    • Intravenous or nutrition therapy
    • Monitoring serious illness and unstable health status

Applying the 7th Character for Continued Treatment in Other Care Settings (cont.)

• If care is being provided for injuries or complications of surgical/medical care, 7th character selection is based on what is being done
• The fact that the patient is new to the physician is not relevant in determining the 7th character
• The key to selecting the 7th character “A” initial encounter is whether active treatment is being rendered.
  – Active treatment can be performed in stages
  – Active treatment may involve multiple episodes of care for fracture/injury or complications of medical/surgical care
  – Active treatment may involve more than one physician treating the patient
  – Active treatment can include evaluation and treatment by a new physician
7th Characters Home Health Setting

- Any code to which a 7th character applies must have a 7th character appended (in every healthcare setting) in order to be a valid code.
- Home health care visits will typically be “subsequent encounters.”
- The 7th character for “initial encounter” is assigned as long as the patient is undergoing active treatment for a condition.

Home Health Example #1

- Home health care services for continuation of IV antibiotics
- Post discharge after infection of right total joint prosthesis
  - T84.51XA Infection and inflammatory reaction due to internal right hip prosthesis, initial encounter
    - Antibiotic treatment for the infection is considered active treatment
Home Health Example #2

• Home health physical therapy services
• Status post repair of left hip fracture with routine healing
• No post-op complications
  – S72.002D Fracture of unspecified part of neck of left femur, subsequent encounter for closed fracture with routine healing
    • Patient received and completed active treatment
    • New patient to home health agency has no bearing on 7th character assignment

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Home Health Example #3

• Home care for routine dressing changes and care of healing wound
• Postoperative wound infection previously treated in acute care hospitalization
• No longer receiving antibiotics
  – T81.4XXD Infection following a procedure, subsequent encounter
    • No longer receiving active treatment
    • Now receiving routine care during healing and recovery phase

Coding Clinic for ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS, Fourth Quarter 2015, page 37
Home Health Example #4

• Home care treatment with wound VAC dressing changes
• Deep right lower quadrant stab wound of the abdomen extending into peritoneal cavity
  – S31.613A  Laceration without foreign body of abdominal wall, right lower quadrant with penetration into peritoneal cavity, initial encounter
  • Wound VAC is considered active treatment

Coding Clinic for ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS, Fourth Quarter 2015, pages 37-38

Home Health Example #5

• Home care treatment for post-surgical management of biliary T-tube, wound care and dressing changes
• Previously hospitalized for cholecystectomy with biliary T-tube insertion
  – Z48.815  Encounter for surgical aftercare following surgery on the digestive system
  – Z48.01  Encounter for change or removal of surgical wound dressing

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LTCH Example #6

- Patient with chronic renal failure status post removal of infected AV graft was transferred to a LTCH for intravenous (IV) Vancomycin
- The reason for the transfer is continued treatment of the graft infection
  - Assign code T82.7XXA, Infection and inflammatory reaction due to other cardiac and vascular devices, implants and grafts, initial encounter, as the principal diagnosis

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LTCH Example #7

- Patient admitted to a long term care hospital following an acute care hospitalization due to abdominal wound dehiscence following failed gastric bypass surgery.
- At the LTCH, the wound dehiscence received continued management and treatment.
  - Assign code T81.31XA, Disruption of external operation (surgical) wound, not elsewhere classified, initial encounter, as the principal diagnosis.
Staged Arthroplasty – Applying 7th Character

• Infected prosthetic joint replacements are frequently treated using a staged approach.
  – First the infected prosthetic joint is removed
  – An articulating antibiotic cement spacer is placed
  – Intravenous (IV) antibiotics are administered for several weeks
  – New prosthetic joint is inserted and cement spacer is removed after the infection is cleared

Staged Arthroplasty Example #8

• Patient with left infected hip undergoes removal of infected prosthesis, insertion of a cement spacer, and receives IV antibiotics for six weeks. After the infection cleared, the patient was readmitted and underwent removal of antibiotic spacer with insertion of a new joint prosthesis.
  • First Admission
    – Assign code T84.52XA, Infection and inflammatory reaction due to internal left hip prosthesis, initial encounter, as the principal diagnosis
    – Code Z96.642, Presence of left artificial hip joint, is assigned as an additional diagnosis
  • Second Admission
    – Assign code Z47.32, Aftercare following explantation of hip joint prosthesis, as the principal diagnosis
Staged Arthroplasty – Applying 7th Character (cont.)

• For admissions involving staged procedures for joint prosthesis insertion following a prior explantation of the prosthesis, code Z47.32, Aftercare following explantation of hip joint prosthesis, is assigned.
  – These cases involve a medical need to remove an existing joint prosthesis (e.g., due to infection or other problem)
  – It was not possible to replace the prosthesis during the initial episode of care
• Code T84.52X- is not appropriate for the second admission since the infected joint prosthesis had been previously removed.

Polling Question

A patient with a healing fracture without complication, who is status post fracture treatment four months ago, is seen by a new provider for the first time for a follow-up visit.

The visit to the new provider is assigned the 7th character “A” for initial encounter.
Possible Answers

A. True
(The patient is being seen by a new provider)

B. False
(“D” is the appropriate 7th character for this subsequent encounter during the healing phase)

Application of the 7th Character for Sequela

- Per the guidelines, “When using 7th character “S”, it is necessary to use both the injury code that precipitated the sequela and the code for the sequela itself. The “S” is added only to the injury code, not the sequela code. The 7th character “S” identifies the injury responsible for the sequela. The specific type of sequela (e.g. scar) is sequenced first, followed by the injury code.”
Sequela Example #9

- Patient presents for release of skin contracture due to third degree burns of the right hand that occurred due to a house fire five years ago.
  - Assign code L90.5, Scar conditions and fibrosis of skin, as the principal diagnosis

- Assign secondary codes:
  - T23.301S, Burn of third degree of right hand, unspecified site, sequela; and
  - X00.0XXS, Exposure to flames in uncontrolled fire in building or structure, sequela

Sequela Example #10

- Patient, who is status post open fracture of left femur secondary to an accidental gunshot wound 18 months ago, is admitted secondary to “Traumatic arthritis of hip due to femur fracture.”
  - Assign code M12.552, Traumatic arthropathy, left hip, as the principal diagnosis

- Assign secondary codes
  - S72.002S, Fracture of unspecified part of neck of left femur, sequela
  - W34.00XS, Accidental discharge from other and unspecified firearms or gun, sequela
Active Treatment - Example #11

• Ten year-old male, who had suffered a closed Colles’ right radius fracture, lost his reduction in the cast.
  – Fracture was initially treated by another orthopedist
  – Referred to a new physician
  – Underwent surgical treatment (i.e., open reduction and internal fixation)
  – Equates to active treatment of fracture

• Assign codes:
  – S52.531A  Colles’ fracture right radius, initial encounter
  – 0PSH04Z  Reposition right radius with internal fixation, open approach
Example – Same Patient over Course of Treatment for Intertrochanteric, Open Fracture of Left Femur

• Emergency Department Visit
  – S72.142B Displaced intertrochanteric fracture of right femur, initial encounter for open fracture type I or II
  – Tabular List Notes:
    • A fracture not indicated as displaced or nondisplaced should be coded to displaced
    • The open fracture designations are based on the Gustilo open fracture classification
    – 7th character B, initial encounter for open fracture type I or II – includes initial encounter for open fracture NOS

Example – Same Patient over Course of Treatment for Intertrochanteric, Open Fracture of Left Femur (cont.)

• Patient transferred to another acute care hospital for surgical repair of fracture
  – S72.142B Displaced intertrochanteric fracture of right femur, initial encounter for open fracture type I or II
    • (same code – still active treatment)

• Orthopedic surgeon reporting professional fee
  – S72.142B Displaced intertrochanteric fracture of right femur, initial encounter for open fracture type I or II
Example – Same Patient over Course of Treatment for Intertrochanteric, Open Fracture of Left Femur (cont.)

• Patient healing well, transferred to rehab facility for rehabilitation therapy
  – S72.142E Displaced intertrochanteric fracture of right femur, subsequent encounter for open fracture type I or II

Example – Same Patient over Course of Treatment for Intertrochanteric, Open Fracture of Left Femur (cont.)

• Patient returns to orthopedist for follow-up to assess healing status; malunion diagnosed
  – S72.142Q Displaced intertrochanteric fracture of right femur, subsequent encounter for open fracture type I or II with malunion
Example – Same Patient over Course of Treatment for Intertrochanteric, Open Fracture of Left Femur (cont.)

• Patient admitted for surgical treatment of malunion
  – S72.142Q Displaced intertrochanteric fracture of right femur, subsequent encounter for open fracture type I or II with malunion

Example – Same Patient over Course of Treatment for Intertrochanteric, Open Fracture of Left Femur (cont.)

• Patient transferred to skilled nursing facility for limited therapy and convalescence, fracture healing well
  – S72.142E Displaced intertrochanteric fracture of right femur, subsequent encounter for open fracture type I or II with routine healing
Example – Same Patient over Course of Treatment for Intertrochanteric, Open Fracture of Left Femur (cont.)

- Patient discharged from skilled nursing facility to home care for outpatient physical therapy
  - S72.142E Displaced intertrochanteric fracture of right femur, subsequent encounter for open fracture type I or II with routine healing

Example – Same Patient over Course of Treatment for Intertrochanteric, Open Fracture of Left Femur (cont.)

- Patient returns to orthopedist for follow-up to assess healing status, fracture healing well
  - S72.142E Displaced intertrochanteric fracture of right femur, subsequent encounter for open fracture type I or II with routine healing
Addressing Questions to the Central Office

Please be sure to read the FAQ section to find out what types of questions we can and cannot answer.

Changes to AHA Coding Clinic
The paper version of the AHA Coding Clinic for ICD-10-CM/ICD-10-PCS and HCPCS will be phased out at the end of 2015. Look for more information in the coming months as we announce new ways to access these great resources.

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Nelly Leon-Chisen, RHIA
Program Chairperson
American Hospital Association
AHA Central Office

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