



Chronic Condition Coding Awareness: FRACTURES

Fractures

There are two types of fractures: traumatic and non-traumatic (pathological). A traumatic fracture is described as a broken bone that occurs when the physical force on the bone is stronger than the bone itself. Examples of traumatic fractures include fractures resulting from a fall, blunt injury or a motor vehicle accident¹. There are several types of traumatic fractures, which include transverse, oblique, spiral, angulated and displaced fractures. A pathological fracture results from a break of a diseased or weakened bone. Pathological fractures are often characterized as fractures resulting from a minor injury that would not generally cause a break. Diseases that can cause a pathological fracture include malignancy, osteoporosis, and hyperparathyroidism. For both traumatic and pathological fractures, the location of a fracture on the bone is important for accurate coding and billing. Location of the fracture includes both laterality (left or right) and position on the bone (lower, upper, shaft or head)².

Treatment of Fractures

Immobilizing a fracture, including casting or fixating, is the best way to assist with healing. Sometimes surgery is required to “reduce” or set the bone in place or even remove broken bones and replace with new artificial ones. There are two types of reductions: closed and open. A closed reduction refers to manipulation for a fracture without an open incision. An open reduction refers to manipulation of a fracture after an incision has been performed².

Fractures																													
<p>➤ ICD-10-CM Traumatic Fracture Codes</p>	Assign separate codes for each fracture unless there is a combination code. When multiple fractures or injuries occur at the same time, the provider determines the diagnosis for the most serious fracture/injury and the focus of treatment (sequenced first). Also, assign the appropriate 7 th character (see below for descriptions).																												
	The following are code series for each traumatic fracture location:																												
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>S02</td> <td>Skull and facial bones</td> <td>S59</td> <td>Other injuries of elbow and forearm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S12</td> <td>Cervical vertebra and other parts of the neck</td> <td>S62</td> <td>Wrist and hand</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S22</td> <td>Ribs, sternum and thoracic spine</td> <td>S72</td> <td>Femur</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S32</td> <td>Lumbar spine and pelvis</td> <td>S79</td> <td>Other injuries of hip and thigh</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S42</td> <td>Shoulder and upper arm</td> <td>S82</td> <td>Lower leg including ankle</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S49</td> <td>Other injuries of shoulder/ upper arm</td> <td>S89</td> <td>Other injuries of lower leg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S52</td> <td>Forearm</td> <td>S92</td> <td>Foot and toe, not including ankle</td> </tr> </table>	S02	Skull and facial bones	S59	Other injuries of elbow and forearm	S12	Cervical vertebra and other parts of the neck	S62	Wrist and hand	S22	Ribs, sternum and thoracic spine	S72	Femur	S32	Lumbar spine and pelvis	S79	Other injuries of hip and thigh	S42	Shoulder and upper arm	S82	Lower leg including ankle	S49	Other injuries of shoulder/ upper arm	S89	Other injuries of lower leg	S52	Forearm	S92	Foot and toe, not including ankle
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<p>➤ ICD-10-CM Pathological Fracture Codes</p>	Assign the following code series for specific diseases and locations associated with pathological fractures:																												
M80.00-M80.08-	Age Related Osteoporosis , with current pathological fracture, site/location, initial/subsequent/ sequela/ encounter, routine/delayed, nonunion, malunion Use additional code to identify major osseous defect, if applicable (M89.7-).																												
M84.30-M84.38-	Stress fracture , site/location, initial/subsequent/ sequela Use additional code to identify the external cause.																												
M84.40-M84.48-	Pathological fracture, not elsewhere classified , site/location, initial/ subsequent/ sequela encounter, routine/delayed, nonunion, malunion																												
M84.50-M84.58-	Pathological fracture in neoplastic disease , site/location, initial/subsequent/ sequela encounter, routine/delayed, nonunion, malunion Use additional code to identify the underlying neoplasm.																												
M84.60-M84.68-	Pathological fracture in other disease , site/location, initial/ subsequent/ sequela encounter, routine/delayed, nonunion, malunion Use additional code to identify the underlying condition.																												
<p>➤ ICD-10-CM Other Fracture Codes</p>	Assign the following code series for peri-prosthetic fractures that occurs around internal prosthetic joint: M97.0-M97.9 code series depending on the location of the prosthetic. NOTE: These are not complications of the prosthesis itself; it involves the area around the prosthesis. They can occur because of trauma or pathological conditions.																												



➤ Additional Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fracture not indicated as open or closed; coded as closed. • A fracture not indicated as displaced or not displaced codes as displaced. 												
➤ Initial, Subsequent, vs Sequela ...	<p>Traumatic and non-traumatic fracture codes must include the appropriate 7th character for the initial, subsequent or sequela encounter for each encounter where the member is receiving treatment for the fracture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial encounter refers to when a member is receiving active treatment or delayed seeking treatment for the fracture or nonunion. • Subsequent encounter refers to when the member has received active treatment for the fracture and is receiving routine aftercare; refers to the healing and recovery phase. • Sequela refers to residual effects after the acute phase of the fracture has healed. Use the 7th character “S”, on the fracture code that precipitated the injury and the sequela code itself coding the sequela first then the fracture. A current fracture does not code with an “S” digit. <p>DO NOT ASSIGN AN AFTERCARE “Z” code with subsequent and sequela codes.</p>												
➤ 7th Character ...	<p>The 7th character of a fracture code outlines if the patient is receiving active or subsequent treatment or not. (Refer to the ICD-10-CM coding book for additional 7th characters and applicable locations)</p> <p>Below is a list of the most common 7th characters related to closed fractures:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>Initial encounter for closed fracture</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D</td> <td>Subsequent encounter for closed fracture with routine healing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>Sequela</td> </tr> </table> <p>Below is a list of the most common 7th characters related to open fractures:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>Initial encounter for open fracture</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E</td> <td>Subsequent encounter for open fracture type I or type II with routine healing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S</td> <td>Sequela</td> </tr> </table>	A	Initial encounter for closed fracture	D	Subsequent encounter for closed fracture with routine healing	S	Sequela	B	Initial encounter for open fracture	E	Subsequent encounter for open fracture type I or type II with routine healing	S	Sequela
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➤ Open Fracture Coding Tips...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assignment of the 7th character for open fractures of the forearm, femur, and lower leg, including ankle are based on the Gustilo open fracture classification. • If the Gustilo classification is not specified, the 7th character for open fracture Type I or Type II should be assigned. 												
➤ Use additional codes...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other associated injuries, including additional fractures (S code series) • External causes capturing how the injury happened, the intent of the injury, the place of the injury, the activity and status of the person (V, W, X, and Y code series) • Risk factors that can attribute to the fracture, such as smoking (F17.2- code series), alcohol use (F10.2- code series) or diabetes (E10-E13- code series) 												
➤ Coding Example...	<p>A 6-year-old presented to the provider’s office for pain due to a fall onto the right shoulder and arm 2 weeks ago. The fall was from a swing in their backyard. The provider diagnosed proximal metaphyseal humeral fracture without displacement and minimal angulation. (Metaphyseal portions are located near the ends of humerus bone.)</p> <p>Code the following:</p> <p>S42.294A- Other nondisplaced fracture of upper end of left humerus, initial encounter W09.1XXA- Fall from playground swing, initial encounter Y92.017- Yard in a single-family house as the place of occurrence</p>												
➤ HEDIS Measures...	<p>Osteoporosis Management in Women Who Had a Fracture (OMW) Medicare only Women 67-85 years of age who suffered a fracture and who had either a bone mineral density (BMD) test or prescription for a drug to treat osteoporosis in the six months after the fracture. Excludes fractures of finger, toe, face, and skull.</p>												

1. Web MD <https://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/understanding-fractures-basic-information>
2. AAPC Fractures 101 <https://www.aapc.com/blog/24341-fractures-101-lets-cover-the-basics/>
3. ICD 10-CM Expert for Physicians: The Complete Official Code Set, Optum360. 2023 Optum360, LLC; Coding Clinic
4. 2022 HEDIS Technical Specifications

Reviewed: 01/2023

➤ **Secure Portal Registration:** If you haven’t already do so, please go to www.HomeStateHealth.com to register for our Secure Portal. Functions on the portal include: Verification of eligibility, submission of claims, entering authorizations, viewing patient care gaps, etc. Use of the portal is FREE for all services!

➤ **Electronic Funds Transfer / Electronic Remittance Advice**

- Home State Health Plan partners with PaySpan Health for EFT/ERA services.
- Please register with PaySpan Health at www.payspanhealth.com

Questions?

Contact Provider Relations at 1-855-694-4663.