

# ICD-10-CM Coding for External Cause Codes

Caren J Swartz, CPC-I, COC, CPMA,  
CRC, CPB

AAPC National Advisory Board

## Chapter 20 guidelines

- These codes are intended to provide data for injury research and evaluation of injury prevention strategies.
- There is no national requirement for mandatory ICD-10-CM external cause code reporting.
- Unless a provider is subject to a state-based external cause code reporting mandate or the codes are required by a particular payer.

## Chapter 20 guidelines

- Assign as many external codes as necessary to fully explain each cause. If only one external code can be recorded, assign the code most related to the principal diagnosis.
- The selection of the appropriate external cause code is guided by the Alphabetical Index of External Causes and by Inclusion and Exclusion notes in the Tabular List.

## Chapter 20 guidelines

- These codes should never be sequenced as the first-listed or principal diagnosis.
- Used with any code in the range of A00.0 – T88.9, Z00 – Z99
- Use the external cause code for the length of the treatment, with the appropriate 7<sup>th</sup> character for each encounter for which the injury or condition is being treated.

## Place of Occurrence

- Secondary codes for use after other external cause codes to identify the location of the patient at the time of the injury.
- Only used once
- Do not use Y92.9 (unspecified) if not stated or not applicable

## Place of Occurrence

- The place of occurrence codes are in the external cause of injuries index.
- They are indexed alphabetically under “Place of occurrence”
- Examples of what you may find
  - Barn – Y92. 71
  - Healthcare provider office – Y92.531
  - Prison – Y92.149 – unspecified place in prison
    - Y92.142 – bathroom in prison
    - Y92.143 – cell in prison
    - Y92.141 – dining room in prison

## Activity Code

- Describes the activity of the patient at the time of the injury
- Used only once at the initial encounter
- Do not use Y93.9, unspecified if activity is not stated

## Activity Code

- The activity codes are in the external cause of injuries index.
- They are indexed alphabetically under “activity”
- Examples of these are –
  - BASE jumping – Y93.33
  - Cellular communication device – Y93.C2
  - Pilates – Y93.B4
  - Riding rollercoaster – Y93.I1

## External Cause Status

- Indicates the work status of the person at the time the event occurs (Y99 category)
  - Whether the event occurred during military activity
  - Whether a non-military person was at work
  - Whether an individual, including a student or volunteer, was involved in a non-work activity at the time of the causal event
- Used only once at the initial encounter

## External Cause Status Code

- The external cause status codes are in the external cause of injuries index.
- They are indexed alphabetically under “External cause status”
- Examples of these are –
  - Civilian activity done for pay – Y99.0
  - Military activity – Y99.1
  - Volunteer activity – Y99.2
  - Other (i.e. student, leisure) – Y99.8

## Example

- Initial encounters generally require four codes
  - External cause codes
    - Used for length of treatment
    - Utilizes 7<sup>th</sup> character extender
  - Place of Occurrence
    - Used only at initial encounter
  - Activity code
    - Used only once at the initial encounter
  - External cause status
    - Used only once a the initial encounter

## Seventh Character Extenders

- Required for certain categories
- Must always remain in the 7<sup>th</sup> character position
- Explains the status or encounter

## Dummy Placeholders

- Used for those codes that require a 7<sup>th</sup> character extender that do not consist of 6 characters
- Example
  - W17.0XXA – fall into well, initial encounter
  - Or
  - S60.00XA – contusion of unspecified finger

## Chapter 20: External Causes of Morbidity (V01–Y99)

### Multiple External Cause Coding Guidelines

- If two or more events cause separate injuries, an external cause code should be assigned for each cause. The first-listed external cause code will be selected in the following order:
  - External cause codes for child and adult abuse take priority over all other external cause codes
  - External cause codes for terrorism events take priority over all other external cause codes except child and adult abuse
  - External cause codes for cataclysmic events take priority over all other E codes except child and adult abuse and terrorism
  - External cause codes for transport accidents take priority over all other external cause codes except cataclysmic events and child and adult abuse and terrorism

## Chapter 20: External Causes of Morbidity (V01–Y99)

- Terrorism Guidelines
  1. Cause of injury identified by the Federal Government (FBI) as terrorism
    1. When the cause of an injury is identified by the FBI as terrorism, the first listed external cause code should be a code from category Y38, Terrorism. More than one Y38 code may be assigned if the injury is the result of more than one mechanism of terrorism.
  2. Cause of an injury is suspected to be the result of terrorism
    1. When cause of an injury is suspected to be the result of terrorism a code from Y38 should NOT be used
  3. Code Y38.9, Terrorism, secondary effects

## Table of Drugs and Chemicals

Substance	Poisoning, (unintentional)	Poisoning, self-harm	Poisoning, Undetermined	Adverse effect	Underdosed	
Pemoline	T50.7X1	T50.7X2	T50.7X3	T50.7X4	T50.7X5	T50.7X6
Pempidine	T44.2X1	T44.2X2	T44.2X3	T44.2X4	T44.2X5	T44.2X6
Penamcillin	T36.0X1	T36.0X2	T36.0X3	T36.0X4	T36.0X5	T36.0X6
Penbutolol	T44.7X1	T44.7X2	T44.7X3	T44.7X4	T44.7X5	T44.7X6
Penethamate	T36.0X1	T36.0X2	T36.0X3	T36.0X4	T36.0X5	T36.0X6
Penfluridol	T43.591	T43.592	T43.593	T43.594	T43.595	T43.596
Penflutizide	T50.2X1	T50.2X2	T50.2X3	T50.2X4	T50.2X5	T50.2X6
Pengitoxin	T46.0X1	T46.0X2	T46.0X3	T46.0X4	T46.0X5	T46.0X6
Penicillamine	T50.6X1	T50.6X2	T50.6X3	T50.6X4	T50.6X5	T50.6X6
Penicillin (any)	T36.0X1	T36.0X2	T36.0X3	T36.0X4	T36.0X5	T36.0X6
Penicillinase	T45.3X1	T45.3X2	T45.3X3	T45.3X4	T45.3X5	T45.3X6



## Table of Drugs and Chemicals

- There is a logic for structure
- T-codes – start with substance
- Continue in the 4<sup>th</sup> which further defines specific type
- 5<sup>th</sup> character in many is “X” placeholder
- 6<sup>th</sup> character defines intent
- 7<sup>th</sup> character defines episode of care

## Table of Drugs and Chemicals

- Substance – Propofol – T41.-
- Poisoning, accidental (unintentional)– T41.291-
- Poisoning, intentional self harm – T41.292-
- Poisoning, assault – T41.293-
- Poisoning, undetermined – T41.294-
- Adverse effect – T41.295-
- Underdosing – T41.296-

**(all require a 7<sup>th</sup> character to complete the code)**

## Applicable 7<sup>th</sup> characters

- A – initial treatment – defined as ED encounter, surgery or E/M by a new provider
- D – subsequent encounter
- S – sequela – “late effect”, residual effect

## The Index

- It's separate, not a part of the main index.
- It's in many instances, not set up as we would think.
- Take an auto accident..
- Accident
  - In transport
  - What was used for transport (car, pedal cycle..)
  - Traffic or non-traffic
  - Driver, passenger etc..

## Trauma

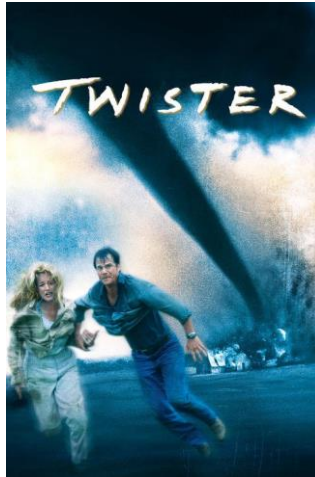
HPI: 55 year old was assaulted at work today. He was punched in the head, then kicked in the side. Came into the ER complaining of pain in his right side, especially with breathing. He denies any loss of consciousness. Denies any other injuries. Smokes a pack a day.

Assessment: Assault with multiple right sided rib fractures with pain. History of CAD with bypass and pacemaker and congestive failure with elevated BNP & troponin.

## Codes

- S22.41XA – multiple right sided rib fracture
- I25.10 – CAD
- R77.8 – abnormal other specified plasma proteins (troponin)
- Z72.0 – tobacco use
- Z95.0 – Presence of cardiac pacemaker
- Y04.0XXA – assault by blunt force, unarmed brawl or fight.
- Y99.0 – civilian worker for pay

## X30-X39 – Exposure to forces of nature



## X30-X39 – Exposure to forces of nature

- X34 – earthquake
- X36 – avalanche
- X37 – cataclysmic storm
  - X37.0 – hurricane
  - X37.1 – Twister
  - X37.3 – dust storm
- X38 - flood

## X71-X83 Intentional self-harm

- Purposefully self-inflicted injury
- Suicide attempt
- X71 – intentional self-harm by drowning and submersion
- X72 - intentional self-harm by handgun discharge
- X81 - intentional self-harm by jumping or lying in front of a moving object
  - X81.1 – (subway) train

## X92-Y08 Assault

- X93 – assault by handgun discharge
- X96 – assault by explosive material
- Y04.1 – assault by human bite
- Y08.01 – assault by strike by hockey stick
- Y09 Assault by unspecified means

## Y07 – Perpetrator of assault, maltreatment and neglect

- Codes from this category are for use only in cases of confirmed abuse (T74.-)
- The category of T74.- reads Adult and child abuse, neglect and other maltreatment, confirmed, it also asks to code any associated injury as well as Y07.
- Selection of the perpetrator is based on the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim.

## Y21-Y33 Event of undetermined intent

- Undetermined intent is only for use when there is specific documentation in the record that the intent of the injury cannot be determined. If no such documentation is present, code to accidental.

## Y35-Y38 Legal intervention, operations of war, military operations, and terrorism.

- Y35 – legal intervention -any injury sustained as a result of an encounter with any law enforcement official.
- Y36 – operations of war – injuries to military personnel caused by war.
- Y37 – military operations – injuries to military personnel and civilians occurring during peace time.
- Y38 – Terrorism – injuries resulting from terrorism

## Y70 – Y82 Medical devices associated with adverse incidents in diagnostic and therapeutic use

- This category specifies the devices by medical/surgical subspecialty and the device.
- Y79- orthopedic devices associated with adverse incidents
  - Y79.2 Prosthetic and other implants, materials and accessory orthopedic devices.

Y83-Y84 Surgical and other medical procedures as the cause of abnormal reaction of the patient, without misadventure at the time of the procedure.

- Y84.1 – kidney dialysis as the cause of abnormal reaction of the patient, without misadventure at the time of the procedure.

## Ohio man holds 3 woman hostage

On May 6, 2013, three women were found alive in a two-story home at 2207 Seymore Ave. in a Cleveland, Ohio neighborhood. The women had mysteriously vanished nearly a decade earlier.



## Codes

- T74.11XA – adult physical abuse, confirmed
- T74.21XA – adult sexual abuse, confirmed
- T74.31XA – adult psychological abuse, confirmed
- Y07.59 – other non-family member, perpetrator of maltreatment and neglect
- Y92.019 – unspecified place in a single family(private) house as the place of occurrence of the external cause.

I had to go there!



## Case scenario

HPI: A 33 year old gentleman was brought into the ER by paramedics after he sustained a shark bite. He was surfing in the ocean, in a competition. The bite was to the left femur. There is an open, comminuted fracture of the shaft of the left femur.

PMH: Allergy to seafood, Type 1 diabetes

## Codes for Shark bite

- S72.352A – comminuted fx, shaft, displaced, left, initial
- E10.9 – Type I diabetes
- Z79.013 – allergy to seafood
- W56.41 – bitten by shark
- Y93.18 – activity, surfing
- Y99.0 – Civilian activity done for pay
- Y92.832 – place of occurrence seashore

## Trauma

HPI: 74 year old man fell from a roof at home, cleaning out gutters. Reports he had a few drinks before climbing out onto the roof. Smokes a pack a day. Drinks a pint of vodka a day. Has hypertension and CAD. Lives with family at home.

Impression: Acute displaced fracture left distal radius and ulna with intra-articular comminution of the radial fracture site. Blood alcohol of 132/mg/dl, GCS – 15. Alcohol dependence.

## Codes

- S52.572A – other intra articular fx lower end of left radius
- S52.612A – displaced fx distal left ulna
- I25.10 – CAD, native artery
- I10 – hypertension
- F10.20 – alcohol dependence
- Y90.6 – blood alcohol 132mg/100ml
- W13.2XXA – fall off of roof, initial encounter
- Y92.018 – Other place in single family home
- Y93.H9 – other exterior property maintenance

## Attacked by a chicken



## Attacked by a chicken - case

A 43 year old woman was treated in the emergency room after being attacked by her rooster at her farm. She explained she was feeding her chickens when the rooster attacked her, spurring her. She sustained several puncture wounds on her calves and thigh, bilaterally. The left calf had retained foreign body, presumably a piece of the chicken's spur.

## Attacked by a chicken codes

- S71.131A – Puncture wound without foreign body, right thigh
- S81.842A – puncture wound with foreign body, left lower leg
- S81.831A – puncture wound without foreign body, right lower leg
- Y92.72 – chicken coop as the place of occurrence
- Y93.K9 – other activity involving animal care

## Hot Yoga, anyone



## Back Strain

- A 20 year old college student was seen in the ED for a strain of her low back. She states this was done while doing Bikram (hot) Yoga, at the yoga studio. She also appears to be extremely dehydrated. She agreed she does not drink enough water during these sessions.

## Yoga accident

- S39.012A –Strain of muscle, fascia and tendon of lower back
- E86.0 - dehydration
- Y93.42 – Yoga
- Y92.39 – other specified sports and athletic area as the place of occurrence of the external cause
- Y99.8 – other external cause status

## Trauma

HPI: 19 y/o drinking earlier was body slammed into the ground. Developed sudden SOB and RUQ pain. Described a “tearing sensation”. No, LOC.

Impression: Liver laceration, alcohol abuse.

## Codes

- S36.113A – liver laceration, unspecified degree
- F10.10 – alcohol abuse, uncomplicated
- Y04.0XXA – assault by unarmed brawl/fight

## Are you “Psycho” from ICD-10



## The codes...

- S21.302A – unspecified open wound of left front wall of thorax with penetration into thoracic cavity.
- F40.230 – fear of blood
- X99.1- assault by knife
- Y92.59 – Place of occurrence, motel (Bate’s)



## War....



- F43.11 – Post-traumatic stress disorder, acute
- S06.2X5A – diffuse traumatic brain injury with loss of consciousness greater than 24 hours with return to pre-existing conscious levels
- S78.011A – complete traumatic amputation at right hip joint
- Y36.230A – war operations involving explosion of improvised explosive device(IED), military personnel
- Y99.1 – military activity

## The Godfather



## The Godfather

- Assault by being run over-Y03.0XXA
- Assault by unarmed brawl of fight – Y04.0XXA
- Assault by handgun – X93.XXXA
- Assault by shotgun – Y94.0XXA
- Assault by machine gun – Y94.2XXA
- Victim of crime (torture) – Z65.4

## Alligator Attack true story!!

Authorities in Orange, Texas, are investigating after a man died from an alligator attack. When notified of the danger, he reportedly said, "F\*\*\* that alligator."

The attack occurred immediately after Woodward jumped in the canal, authorities said. The woman also jumped in to try to save him, but was unsuccessful and called for help.

## Alligator attack

- W58.01 – contact with alligator
- Y93.11 – activity, swimming
- Y92.89 – other specified place as the place of occurrence

Questions??

