



ICD-10 Diagnosis Documentation Tips – Orthopedic Hand Surgery

Infections:

- ❖ State first location and type (osteomyelitis right 5th metacarpal)
- ❖ Indicate organism if known

Arthropathies:

- ❖ Describe type / manifestation / location / laterality / specifics
- ❖ Example: chronic gout, idiopathic, right wrist, with tophus

Hand specificity:

- ❖ Osteoarthritis of hand ICD-9 one code
- ❖ Osteoarthritis of 1st CMC joint ICD-10 12 codes
 - Bilateral or unilateral
 - Etiology
 - Primary osteoarthritis
 - Post-traumatic osteoarthritis
 - Other secondary osteoarthritis
 - For all unilateral types - **LATERALITY**
 - Right, left or unspecified

Fractures:

- ❖ Anatomic specificity / displacement / open or closed
- ❖ Episode of care:
 - Initial [open/closed]
 - Subsequent [routine healing, delayed, malunion, nonunion]
 - Sequela

Acute Injuries: If known, document the following:

- ❖ Nature of injury [example: MVA - car vs. pedestrian]
- ❖ Place [example: interstate highway]
- ❖ Activity [example: talking on cellphone]
- ❖ Status [example: while engaged in work activity]



ICD-10 [INPATIENT] Procedural Coding Tips – Ortho Hand Surgery

Characters:

- ❖ Section – almost always medical/surgical
- ❖ Body system – should be self evident from your description
- ❖ Root operation – describes the intent of your procedure
 - Replacement – total or partial joint
 - Detachment – amputation
 - Resection – removal of all of a body part
 - Excision – removal of a portion of a body part
 - Fusion – render joint immobile
 - Release – same context as carpal tunnel
- ❖ Body part – describe with anatomic specificity
- ❖ Approach – open, percutaneous, percutaneous endoscopic, external [closed reduction]
- ❖ Device - describe as specifically as possible any device left in the patient
- ❖ Qualifier - Used typically to add anatomic specificity
 - Example: (partial 3rd ray resection)

Examples of complete documentation:

- ❖ ORIF distal phalanx right index finger with K wire
- ❖ Endoscopic carpal tunnel release, left [specificity re: approach]
- ❖ Swanson arthroplasty R index, middle, ring, and small MCP joints
 - Generates 4 procedure codes, one for each MCP
 - **NOTE: always document each component procedure**
- ❖ Luno-capitate Fusion Right with Bone Graft from Ipsilateral Distal Radius
 - Generates 2 codes [fusion and excising bone graft]
- ❖ Extensor indicus proprius to extensor pollicis longus transfer, right