



## **ICD-10 Diagnosis Documentation Tips – Total Joint**

### Infections:

- State first location and type (osteomyelitis right femur)
- Indicate organism if known

### Arthropathies:

- Describe type / manifestation / location / laterality / specifics
- Example: chronic gout, lead induced, right foot, with tophus

### Fractures:

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

### Pathologic Fracture:

- Type:
  - Osteoporosis with current pathological fracture (276)
  - Pathologic fracture in neoplastic disease (192)
  - Pathologic fracture in other disease (192)
  - Pathologic fracture, NEC (228)
  - Collapsed vertebra, NEC (36)
- Anatomic location / Laterality
- Initial / Subsequent (as under other fractures) / 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 – Total Joint**

### Characters:

- Section – almost always medical/surgical
- Body system – should be self evident from your description
- Root operation – describes the intent of the 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 – renders 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
  - Joint replacement – metal on poly, ceramic on poly, etc.
- Qualifier - Used typically to add anatomic specificity
  - Example: (partial 3<sup>rd</sup> ray resection)

### Example of complete documentation:

- Femoral hemiarthroplasty R hip with synthetic metal implant, cemented [or simply document the specifics of the implant used]