



ICD-10 Diagnosis Documentation Tips – Orthopedic Trauma

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
- Specificity for open fractures of the forearm, femur, and lower leg
 - Gustilo I, II, IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC

Acute Injuries: If known, please 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 – Orthopedic Trauma

Characters:

- Section – almost always medical/surgical
- Body system – should be evident from your description
- Root operation – describes the intent of the procedure
 - 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
- Qualifier - Used typically to add anatomic specificity
 - Example: (partial 3rd ray resection)

Examples of complete documentation:

- ORIF right femur with intramedullary device
- ORIF shaft left humerus with hybrid external fixation device
- Open fasciotomy right lower leg
- Carpal tunnel release, right
- Tension band wiring left patella