

Root Operation: Drainage

In an effort to aid Health Information Management Coding and Medical Billing Professionals with ICD-10, the following coding tip is provided with an educational intent.

The third character in PCS defines the root operation, or the overall objective of the procedure. The root operation of 'Drainage' represents the third character value '9' for codes in the Medical & Surgical section or any other applicable section.

Definition of Dilation: Taking or letting out fluids and/or gases from a body part.

Explanation: Drainage is performed to remove fluids or gases from a body part without taking out any of the body part.

Tip: The 6th character (Device) in the code represents if a device such as a catheter was used. In some sections, the 7th character (Qualifier) in the code represents the substance that is drained such as amniotic fluid, spinal fluid, fetal blood, etc.

Examples:

10904ZU	Amniocentesis
0W9G3ZZ	Paracentesis (Ascites)
009U3ZX	Lumbar Puncture (Diagnostic)
0W9930Z	Percutaneous Chest Tube (Right Pneumothorax)

Reference: 2015 Official ICD-10 PCS Coding Guidelines (<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/Downloads/2015-PCS-guidelines.pdf>)

Coding Clinic is the official resource and authority for ICD-10 coding rules and conventions.

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