

Burns and Corrosions

In an effort to aid Health Information Management Coding and Medical Billing Professionals with ICD-10, the following coding tip is provided with no educational intent.

ICD-10-CM distinguishes between burns and corrosions.

BURN CODES

Burn codes apply to thermal burns (except sunburns) that come from a heat source. Burns from thermal or heat sources include electrical heating appliances, electricity, fire, friction, hot air or hot gases, hot objects, radiation and lighting.

Burns from a heat source are classified by depth (first, second, third, unspecified), extent, and agent.

- For multiple burns, sequence the highest degree burn first.
- Multiple burns of the same three-character category are coded to the highest degree.
- Non-healing burns are coded as acute burns.
- For infected burn sites, use an additional code for the infection.
- Burns classified according to extent of body surface involved are assigned when the site of the burn is not specified or when there a need for additional data such as for a burn unit.
- Burns of eye and internal organs are classified by site, but not by degree.

Treatment for sequela of burns are coded with the burn code with the 7th character of "S" for sequela.

Examples: Acute second and third degree burns of left palm, initial encounter is coded to T23.352A. Scar contracture resulting from third degree burn of left palm is coded to T23.352S.

CORROSION CODES

Corrosion is a new term in ICD-10-CM and is defined as internal or external burns due to chemicals such as acids, alkalines, caustics, and lime.

Corrosion from a chemical burn is classified by depth (first, second, third, unspecified), extent, and agent.

- For multiple corrosions, sequence the highest degree of corrosion first.
- Multiple corrosions of the same three-character category are coded to the highest degree.
- Non-healing corrosions are coded as acute corrosions.
- For infected corrosion sites, use an additional code for the infection.
- Corrosions classified according to extent of body surface involved are assigned when the site of the burn is not specified or when there a need for additional data such as for a burn unit.
- Corrosions of eye and internal organs are classified by site, but not by degree.

Treatment for sequela of corrosion are coded with the corrosion code with the 7th character of "S" for sequela.

Examples: Acute second and third degree corrosion of left palm, initial encounter is coded to T23.752A. Scar contracture resulting from third degree corrosion of left palm is coded to T23.752S.

Reference: 2016 Official ICD-10 CM Coding Guidelines ([cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/Downloads/2016-Official-ICD-10-CM-Guidelines.pdf](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/Downloads/2016-Official-ICD-10-CM-Guidelines.pdf))

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

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