

7th Character: Subsequent Encounter (D) Injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes (S00-T88).

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

The 7th character “D” is used for encounters after the patient has received active treatment of the condition and is receiving routine care for the condition during the healing or recovery phase.

Examples of subsequent treatment are:

- Cast change or removal
- An x-ray to check healing status of a fracture
- Removal of external or internal fixation device
- Medication adjustment
- Other aftercare
- Follow-up visits following treatment of the injury or condition

Note: The aftercare Z codes should not be used for aftercare for conditions such as injuries or poisonings, where 7th characters are provided to identify subsequent care. For example, for aftercare of an injury, assign the acute injury code with the 7th character “D” (subsequent encounter).

Resource: ICD-10-CM Draft Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting 2015

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

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