

ICD-10-CM Coding Basics

Chapter Specifics

Chapter 12

Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue

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ICD-10-CM Conventions

- General rules for use of the classification independent of the guidelines.
- Conventions and instructions of the classification takes precedence over guidelines.
- Incorporated within the Alphabetic Index and Tabular list as instructional notes.

ICD-10-CM Chapter Specifics

Chapter 12:

Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue (L00 – L99)

- Restructured to allow greater specificity and code expansion (e.g. site specific, manifestation)
 - Infections of the Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue(L00-L08)
 - *Use additional code (B95-B97) to identify infectious agent*
 - *Use additional code (B95-B96) to identify organism*
 - *Ex: Acute Lymphangitis, upper left arm, due to group A streptococcal infection (L03.114, B95.0)*
 - Dermatitis and Eczema (L20-L30)
 - Terms are used interchangeably and synonymously
 - Types of dermatitis:
 - Atopic (L20.-)
 - Seborrheic (L21.-)
 - Diaper (L22)
 - Allergic Contact (L23.-)
 - Irritant Contact (L24.-)
 - Exfoliative (L26)

ICD-10-CM Chapter Specifics

Chapter 12:

Pressure Ulcers (L89.-)

- Defined by:
 - Bed sore
 - Decubitus ulcer
 - Plaster ulcer
 - Pressure area
 - Pressure sore
 - *Code first any associated gangrene (I96), when applicable*
- Combination codes that identify the site and stage of the ulcer
 - *Ex: L89.131 Pressure ulcer of right lower back, stage 1*

ICD-10-CM Chapter Specifics

Chapter 12: (cont.)

Pressure Ulcers (L89.-)

- Description of Pressure Ulcer Stages
 - Based upon severity
 - Designations by stages 1-4 *Code first the highest staged ulcer
 - *Stage 1* – Pressure pre-ulcer skin changes limited to persistent focal edema
 - *Stage 2* – Pressure ulcer with abrasion, blister, partial thickness skin loss involving epidermis and/or dermis
 - *Stage 3* – Pressure ulcer with full thickness skin loss involving damage or necrosis of subcutaneous tissue
 - *Stage 4* – Pressure ulcer with necrosis of soft tissues through to underlying muscle, tendon, or bone
 - Unstageable
 - *Ex: L89.510 Pressure ulcer of right ankle, unstageable*
 - Unspecified (L89.9-)
 - *Ex: L89.90 Pressure ulcer of unspecified site, unspecified stage*
- Diagnosis of pressure ulcer should be coded on the basis of provider documentation
 - Query the provider if there is no documentation of pressure ulcer stage (take into account the depth of tissue loss and the depth of tissue exposed)

ICD-10-CM Chapter Specifics

Chapter 12: (cont.)

Non-pressure chronic ulcers of the lower limbs (L97-L98)

- Also includes
- Chronic ulcer of skin of lower limbs NOS
- Non-healing ulcer of skin
- Non-infected sinus of skin
- Trophic ulcer NOS
- Tropical ulcer NOS
- Ulcer of skin of lower limb NOS
- *Code first* any associated underlying condition such as:
 - Gangrene
 - Atherosclerosis of the lower extremities
 - Chronic venous hypertension
 - Diabetic ulcers
 - Postphlebitic syndrome
 - Postthrombotic syndrome
 - Varicose ulcer
- No staging for non-pressure chronic ulcer
- Cellulitis and chronic skin ulcer require 2 codes

ICD-10-CM Chapter Specifics

Chapter 12: (cont.)

Sunburn (L55)

- Considered a radiation-related disorder
- Code is assigned based upon degree of burn
 - 1st degree
 - 2nd degree
 - 3rd degree
- Most ultraviolet radiation-related disorders require use of an additional code to identify the source of the ultraviolet radiation.
 - *Ex: L56 Other acute skin changes due to ultraviolet radiation code with W89.1xx- Exposure to tanning bed (man-made radiation)*