

# CODING EDUCATION CORNER (2016/February)

## Neurosurgery/Spinal Orthopedics

### “ICD-10 Compression /Pathological fracture”

We have identified a large amount of unspecified compression and pathological related fractures in our coding. Since ICD-10-CM has added a great deal of subcategory in this group of codes we still need some fine tuning in our documentation in order to appropriately choose the most specific codes. With Neurosurgery and Orthopedics having a great impact with the expanded specificity in ICD-10-CM coding, below are some key words to add if relevant to your surgical indication.

**Non-traumatic fractures are classified under M codes:**

1. **Osteoporotic related** compression or pathological fracture
  - a. **Age-related Osteoporotic** compression or pathological fracture
  - b. **Osteoporotic disuse** with current pathological fracture
  - c. **Osteoporotic Drug induced**, pathological fracture
  - d. **Idiopathic** pathological fracture
  - e. **Other Osteoporotic** compression or pathological fracture
2. Pathological Fracture **due neoplastic disease**
3. **Other** specific compression fracture

**Traumatic fractures are classified under S codes:**

**Scenario #1:** 81 yr old male with severe pain and weakness and difficulty walking for 2 months, *with no know injury*. Patient has known *aged-related osteoporosis*, L-spine MRI was ordered and a revealed a *L1 pathological fracture*.

**(M80.08- Aged-related osteoporosis with current pathological fracture, vertebra(e) )**

**Scenario #2:** 69 yr old female present with severe mid-low back pain, **denies any traumatic injury**. Patient has **no know comorbidities**, MRI reveals *T12 compression fracture*.

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**(M84.48- Pathological fracture, other site)**

**Scenario #3:** 23 yr old male present to ER with multiple fractures of the right wrist, right leg, and spine. Patient fell off a 20 ft skate boarding ramp. MRI reveals a closed wedge compression fracture at T11-T12,

**(S22.080xA- Wedge Compression fracture of T11-T12 vertebra (A-initial encounter for closed fracture)**

**W10.2xA- Fall (on)(from)incline/ Fall(on)(from) ramp ( A initial encounter)**

**Y93.51Activities involving roller skating (incline) and skateboarding**

**Things to remember:**

- **Identify if the fracture is *non-traumatic***, these are under the **M codes**.
- **Traumatic fractures** are classified under the **S codes**, *identify with cause whenever available*.
- **Identify and be specific with all/any correlating conditions**
- **More specificity in documentation = appropriate ICD-10 code choice**

**References:**

ICD-10-CM 2016

AAOS/ KZA: Managing Coding and Reimbursement Challenges for Orthopedics'

AANS/KZA: Managing Coding and Reimbursement Challenges for Neurosurgery

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