

Pinpoint the appropriate orthopedic aftercare codes

October 2018

Injury vs. Aftercare

Care type	Code choice
Physical therapy only following surgical repair of fracture, no complications	Subsequent encounter (e.g., S72.001D – Fracture unspecified part of neck of right femur, subsequent encounter for closed fracture w/ routine healing)
Routine home health care following surgical repair of traumatic fracture	Subsequent encounter (e.g., S82.002D – Unspecified fracture of left patella, subsequent encounter for closed fracture w/ routine healing)
Physical therapy only following joint replacement surgery	Surgical aftercare (e.g., Z47.1 – Aftercare following joint replacement surgery)

Aftercare Guidelines

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).

The aftercare Z codes should not be used for aftercare for traumatic fractures. For aftercare of a traumatic fracture, assign the acute fracture code with the appropriate 7th character.

Section I.C.19.a.

Section I.C.19.c.1)

Guidelines Example

If the condition for which the rehabilitation service is being provided is no longer present, report the appropriate aftercare code as the first-listed or principal diagnosis, unless the rehabilitation service is being provided following an injury. For rehabilitation services following active treatment of an injury, assign the injury code with the appropriate seventh character for subsequent encounter as the first-listed or principal diagnosis. For example, if a patient with severe degenerative osteoarthritis of the hip, underwent hip replacement and the current encounter/admission is for rehabilitation, report code Z47.1, Aftercare following joint replacement surgery, as the first-listed or principal diagnosis. If the patient requires rehabilitation post hip replacement for right intertrochanteric femur fracture, report code S72.141D, Displaced intertrochanteric fracture of right femur, subsequent encounter for closed fracture with routine healing, as the first-listed or principal diagnosis.

Section I.C.21.c.7)

Aftercare Guidelines

The aftercare codes are generally first-listed to explain the specific reason for the encounter. An aftercare code may be used as an additional code when some type of aftercare is provided in addition to the reason for admission and no diagnosis code is applicable.

Aftercare codes should be used in conjunction with other aftercare codes or diagnosis codes to provide better detail on the specifics of an aftercare encounter visit, unless otherwise directed by the classification. ... Certain aftercare Z code categories need a secondary diagnosis code to describe the resolving condition or sequelae. For others, the condition is included in the code title.

Section I.C.21.c.7)