

# Find & assign the appropriate TBI & SCI codes

# TBIs

A **mild TBI** involves loss of consciousness, confusion or disorientation that lasts less than thirty minutes.

A **moderate TBI** results in loss of consciousness lasting between 30 minutes to 24 hours, and memory loss lasting between 24 hours to seven days; and

A **severe TBI** involves a loss of consciousness lasting more than 24 hours and memory loss lasting more than seven days after the injury occurs. Severe brain injuries can lead to permanent brain damage or even death.

# S06 (Intracranial Injury)

6 <sup>th</sup>	Descriptor
0	... without loss of consciousness
1	... with loss of consciousness of 30 minutes or less
2	... with loss of consciousness of 31-59 minutes
3	... with loss of consciousness of 1 hour to 5 hours, 59 minutes
4	... with loss of consciousness of 6-24 hours
5	... with loss of consciousness > 24 hours with return to pre-existing conscious levels
6	... with loss of consciousness > 24 hours without return to pre-existing conscious levels with patient surviving
7	... with loss of consciousness of any duration with death due to brain injury prior to regaining consciousness
8	... with loss of consciousness of any duration with death due to other cause prior to regaining consciousness
9	... with loss of consciousness of unspecified duration

# TBI Tips

Do ***not*** search the index under “hemorrhage” and then “intracranial,” as it’ll lead you to non-traumatic codes classified to Chapter 9, which are incorrect for TBIs.

Use deficit codes in **subcategory R41.84** (Other specified cognitive deficit) to identify cognitive deficits resulting from TBI and are intended for use as supplementary codes.

Use a seventh character of “S” on an external cause code when coding a sequela of a TBI or SCI. The seventh character for the external cause code should match the seventh character assigned to the actual injury code.

# SCI Tips

Code to the **highest level of spinal cord injury** for a patient who has suffered multiple levels of injury. Note that the lower the number (i.e. C5 vs. C3), the higher up on the spine the injury is. If there are multiple levels of injury, code only the highest injury in each section of the spine (cervical, thoracic, and lumbar).

Be sure to also code any vertebrae fractures or open wounds that occur with an SCI, if applicable.

A **severe TBI** involves a loss of consciousness lasting more than 24 hours and memory loss lasting more than seven days after the injury occurs. Severe brain injuries can lead to permanent brain damage or even death.