

Locating burn codes and their coding & sequencing guidance

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Rule of Nines

Body Section	Percentage
Head and Neck	9%
Posterior Trunk	18%
Anterior Trunk	18%
Left upper extremity	9%
Right upper extremity	9%
Left posterior lower extremity	9%
Right posterior lower extremity	9%
Left anterior lower extremity	9%
Right anterior lower extremity	9%
Perineum	1%

Add'l Burn Coding Tips

- Do not code a sunburn with a code from Chapter 19 that is meant for a thermal burn. Separate codes exist for sunburns in the L55.- category (Sunburn), as well as for sunburns resulting from tanning beds (L56.8, Other specified acute skin changes due to ultraviolet radiation), per the Alpha Index
- Code a burn resulting from the swallowing of a corrosive or caustic substance as a corrosion burn, according to the Alpha Index.
- Code a corrosion as accidental if the intent is unknown or unspecified; do not assign a code for undetermined intent unless documentation specifically indicates it as such, according to coding guidelines. [I.C.19.e.5.b]
- Do not assign a code to indicate the place where the corrosion or burn occurred, such as a public swimming pool. These codes are only used in acute care settings like hospitals, and are not used in home health, according to coding guidelines. [I.C.20.b,c]