# Tips & Tricks

# Pinpoint the appropriate arthritis & osteoporosis codes

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# Getting more information

- Keep asking for the detail you need. They'll eventually wear down and begin to give you more information in the referral.

- Use every document available to you to glean information about a patient's arthritis diagnosis. For example, look in the pain section of the OASIS assessment or the therapy note for more detail. And if you're coding a recert, go back to the start of care record.

- Let knowledge about different types of arthritis guide you to important questions. If the record indicates arthritis in the left knee and the patient was recently in a car accident, ask about the possibility of traumatic arthritis.

# Add'l ICD-10 Guidelines

## Bone versus joint

For certain conditions, the bone may be affected at the upper or lower end, (e.g., avascular necrosis of bone, M87, Osteoporosis, M80, M81). Though the portion of the bone affected may be at the joint, the site designation will be the bone, not the joint.

*Section I.C.13.a.1*

## Acute traumatic versus chronic or recurrent

Bone, joint or muscle conditions that are the result of a healed injury are usually found in chapter 13. Recurrent bone, joint or muscle conditions are also usually found in chapter 13. Any current, acute injury should be coded to the appropriate injury code from chapter 19. Chronic or recurrent conditions should generally be coded with a code from chapter 13.

*Section I.C.13.b*

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