

00.44 Procedure on Vessel Bifurcation Inpatient ICD-9-CM Procedure Code Created

00.44 PROCEDURE ON VESSEL BIFURCATION

The Centers for Medicare and Medicare Services (CMS) ICD-9-CM Coordination and Maintenance Committee created new procedure code 00.44 *Procedure on Vessel Bifurcation* effective October 1, 2006 for FY2007 as posted on their website at: <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD9ProviderDiagnosticCodes/Downloads/icd9addendafy07.pdf>

Hospitals can implement the bifurcation inpatient tracking code for claims submission (Physicians, Cath Lab Administrators, Coders, Billing) and should understand how to incorporate as it relates to cardiovascular procedures as well as other adjunct vascular procedure codes multi-vessel (00.40-00.43) and multi-stent (00.45-00.48).

WHY TRACK BIFURCATION LESION INTERVENTIONS?

By capturing the treatment lesions at a bifurcation, the hospital can track patient outcomes. Also, this coding will allow more accurate tracking of costs associated with the procedure. Although this will not translate into increased payment this year, it will set the stage for CMS to evaluate if there is appropriate reimbursement for this more complex procedure.

The use of this specific code is critically important and directly aligned with many of the initiatives to measure quality and outcomes. Data to track angioplasty, atherectomy and or stenting interventions at a bifurcation in coronary and peripheral vessels will enable exact, disease-specific measurement for this unique resource-intensive interventional procedure.

WHEN DO YOU CONSIDER CODING 00.44 PROCEDURE OF VESSEL BIFURCATION?

Procedures of vessel bifurcation are interventional procedures performed on a forked or branched vessel. The treatment of lesions at the bifurcation of two vessels can be achieved in a variety of ways. Cases can involve any combination of stenting, atherectomy and/or angioplasty.

WHAT IS COMMON DOCUMENTATION LANGUAGE?

Physicians may document in various ways and the patient record may simply include language procedure of bifurcation of a coronary or peripheral vessel. The Cath Lab may need to educate staff on the best way to identify bifurcation procedures from patient documentation.

Coders need to be aware the physician terminology may include a statement like stent intervention in the main vessel and PTCA in the side branch. Stenting cases may include terminology for the technique used including but not limited to T-stenting, V-stenting, Y-stenting, Culotte stenting, and/or Crush technique.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Given the importance of accurately interpreting what codes should be assigned for a patient's procedure to your hospital's operations, it is necessary for everyone to identify procedures and use appropriate codes.

Physicians should clearly document bifurcation procedures and work with staff so that they know when they should enter a bifurcation code.

Cath Lab Administrators should work with staff to incorporate code use in documentation, with links to the chargemaster and revenue center. Accurately reporting charges associated with bifurcation procedures is the foundation for resource tracking, ultimately setting DRG weights.

Coders should understand terminology and how to apply the new codes.

Billing should report the applicable codes in claims submissions for payment and future DRG rate setting data.

Tear along perf and post for easy reference.

00.44
Procedure on
Vessel Bifurcation

HOW DO YOU CODE?

CASE EXAMPLES

Case 1. A percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA) is performed with stent insertion into the left circumflex. Successful stent deployment was achieved at the LAD/diagonal bifurcation by use of one stent in the LAD and PTCA of the diagonal.

Applicable ICD-9-CM Procedure Codes:

- 00.66 Angioplasty
- xx.xx Code appropriate stent code, e.g. 36.06 or 36.07
- 00.42 Procedure on three vessels (LCX, LAD, diagonal)
- 00.44 Procedure on bifurcated vessels and**
- 00.46 Insertion of two vascular stents

Case 2. A percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA) is performed with stent insertion into a bifurcation lesion in a distal right coronary artery. "T" stenting is performed by deploying two stents, one in the PLA and one in the PDA.

Applicable ICD-9-CM Procedure Codes:

- 00.66 Angioplasty
- xx.xx Code appropriate stent code, e.g. 36.06 or 36.07
- 00.41 Procedure on two vessels (RCA, side branch)
- 00.44 Procedure on vessel bifurcation and**
- 00.46 Insertion of two vascular stents

WHO DO I CALL AT BOSTON SCIENTIFIC IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

If you have questions or need more information, contact:

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Start Coding Vessel Bifurcation Procedures October 1, 2006

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