



Western Australian Coding Rule

0415/02 Diagnosis for same-day removal of cervical suture

Q.

What is the correct principal diagnosis code to assign when a patient is admitted as a same-day case for removal of a cervical suture, originally inserted for cervical incompetence?

A.

A cervical suture, also known as cervical cerclage, McDonald suture, Shirodkar suture or cervical stitch, is a treatment for cervical incompetence or insufficiency during pregnancy. When the cervix is incompetent, it dilates too early in the pregnancy and increases the risk of a late miscarriage or preterm birth. To prevent this, a suture is inserted into and around the cervix early in pregnancy (between 12 and 14 weeks). Generally, the suture is removed towards the end of the pregnancy to allow for vaginal delivery. Some types of sutures are permanent and the patient must deliver by caesarean section.

Removal of the cervical suture is a component of the continuing treatment for cervical incompetence and therefore should be assigned a principal diagnosis code of O34.3 *Maternal care for cervical incompetence*.

DECISION

The principal diagnosis for same-day removal of cervical suture for cervical incompetence should be O34.3 *Maternal care for cervical incompetence*.

[Effective 01 May 2015, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 8th Ed.]