Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Western Australian Coding Rule

0417/12 Morphology coding

WA Coding Rule 0809/03 *Morphology coding* is superseded by ACCD Coding Rule **Selection of morphology codes from pathology results** (Ref No: Q3147) effective 1 April 2017; (log in to view on the ACCD CLIP portal).

DECISION

WA Coding Rule 0809/03 *Morphology coding* is retired.

[Effective 01 Apr 2017, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 9th Ed.]

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0809/03 Morphology coding

Q.

Various queries have been received regarding morphology coding.

A.

Coding Education Team advice:

As per ACS 0233: If a morphological diagnosis contains two histological terms which have different M codes, select the highest number as it is usually more specific.

Coders should use only information from the conclusion of a histology report when assigning morphology as coders should not be expected to interpret microscopic findings.

Ensure you are satisfied that the pathologist's conclusions are clear - if there are differential diagnoses presented in the histopathology report, and the pathologist chooses one as a favoured diagnosis, it is better to query with the clinician for a final diagnosis.

Try to code to the most specific term.

DECISION

Coders should use only information from the conclusion of a histology report when assigning morphology as coders should not be expected to interpret microscopic findings.

[Effective 14 Aug 2009, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 6th Ed.]

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