



Western Australian Coding Rule

0709/08 Musculo-skeletal limb pain

Q.

Principal Diagnosis of Musculoskeletal Pain in limbs: Are codes assigned for pain in joint and myalgia or code to pain in joint only?

A.

In the query, musculoskeletal pain in limb has been documented, but code suggestion is for pain in joint. The codes for this scenario would be M79.62 *Pain in limb, upper arm* and M25.52 *Pain in a joint, upper arm*.

Following the Alphabetic index:

Pain
- limb (lower) (upper)

There is no Index entry to further classify the pain such as is with musculoskeletal chest pain i.e. other chest pain. Note a code for myalgia is not assigned for musculoskeletal chest pain.

The documentation of musculoskeletal does not suggest myalgia, as this is muscle pain alone and is not documented.

DECISION

Code M79.6x *Pain in limb* should be coded with the site of the pain assigned as the fifth digit for documentation of musculoskeletal pain in limbs.

[Effective 07 Jul 2011, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 7th Ed.]