



Western Australian Coding Rule

0318/20 Methylated spirits poisoning

In ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Tenth Edition, the Alphabetic Index entry for *Methylated spirits* was updated. WA Coding Rule 0215/03 *Methylated spirits poisoning* is therefore retired.

DECISION

WA Coding Rule 0215/03 *Methylated spirits poisoning* is retired.

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



Western Australian Coding Rule

0215/03 Methylated spirits poisoning

Q.

What is the correct code for methylated spirits poisoning? The Index leads to the code T51.1 *Methanol* yet clinical advice indicates that there is no methanol in methylated spirits any longer. Should it be coded to T51.0 *Ethanol*?

A.

Methylated spirits is ethanol (alcohol) that contains additives to make it poisonous, extremely bad tasting, foul smelling or nauseating, to discourage recreational consumption. Traditionally, the main additive has been 10% methanol but today many different additives may be used, depending on the country and manufacturer.

Advice from the Poisons Information Centre indicates that by law, Australian methylated spirits cannot contain more than 5% methanol and most do not contain methanol at all. Therefore, in the case of poisoning by Australian methylated spirits, most often the substance causing the poisoning would be ethanol. Therefore, the default code for methylated spirits poisoning should be T51.0 *Ethanol* unless there is documentation that the methylated spirits contained methanol.

Another term for methylated spirits is denatured alcohol. The Index entry for this leads to T51.0 *Ethanol*. It appears that there is an inconsistency in the Index, with synonymous terms leading to different codes.

DECISION

We believe that the Index entry for methylated spirits poisoning is incorrect, and should lead to T51.0 *Ethanol*. We will make a public submission to the ACCD to have the Index updated. In the meantime, coders should use the alternate pathway for 'denatured alcohol' and code methylated spirits poisoning to T51.0 *Ethanol*.

[Effective 25 Feb 2015, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 8th Ed.]