Western Australian Coding Rule

0318/14 Cellulitis/abscess due to self-injecting

In ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Tenth Edition, ACS 1916 *Superficial and soft tissue injuries* provides guidelines for coding infected superficial injuries. WA Coding Rule 0415/05 *Cellulitis/abscess due to self-injecting* is therefore retired.

**DECISION**

WA Coding Rule 0415/05 *Cellulitis/abscess due to self-injecting* is retired.

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

0415/05 Cellulitis/abscess due to self-injecting

Q.
In light of the March 2015 Coding Rule ‘Cellulitis of an infected blister’, should T79.3 Post traumatic wound infection, NEC also be assigned with the cellulitis code in the January 2010 CCWA query?

A.
The CCWA query in January 2010 recommended:

**Query:** What is the correct external cause code for cellulitis of thigh due to self-injecting steroids?

**Decision:** The correct external cause code is W46 Contact with hypodermic needle

**Recommendation:** Assign codes:
- L03.11 Cellulitis of lower limb
- S70.9 Superficial injury of hip and thigh, unspecified
- W46 Contact with hypodermic needle
- Y92.9 Place of occurrence at or in unspecified place of occurrence
- U73.9 Injury or poisoning occurring while engaged in unspecified activity

If there is no cellulitis or abscess documented code T79.3 Post traumatic wound infection, not elsewhere classified is required to show that the site is infected.

- S70.9 Superficial injury of hip and thigh, unspecified
- T79.3 Post traumatic wound infection, not elsewhere classified
- W46 Contact with hypodermic needle
- Y92.9 Place of occurrence at or in unspecified place of occurrence
- U73.9 Injury or poisoning occurring while engaged in unspecified activity

ACCD Coding Rule March 2015 ‘Cellulitis of an infected blister’ states that T79.3 Post traumatic wound infection, NEC should be assigned with a cellulitis code when coding cellulitis of a superficial injury as instructed in ACS 1916 Superficial injuries.

To be in line with national advice, we recommend assigning T79.3 Post traumatic wound infection, NEC in addition to the cellulitis code in the first example of the above query.

**DECISION**

CCWA decision ‘Cellulitis/abscess due to self-injecting’ is still current, however we recommend also assigning T79.3 Post traumatic wound infection, NEC in addition to the cellulitis code in the first example of the query.

[Effective 01 Apr 2015, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 8th Ed.]
Western Australian Coding Rule

0110/10 Cellulitis/abscess due to self-injecting e.g. steroid injecting or IV drug use

Q. What is the correct external cause code for cellulitis of thigh due to self-injecting steroids?

A. Assign codes:

L03.11 Cellulitis of lower limb
S70.9 Superficial injury of hip and thigh, unspecified
W46 Contact with hypodermic needle
Y92.9 Place of occurrence at or in unspecified place of occurrence
U73.9 Injury or poisoning occurring while engaged in unspecified activity

If there is no cellulitis or abscess documented code T79.3 Post traumatic wound infection, not elsewhere classified is required to show that the site is infected.

S70.9 Superficial injury of hip and thigh, unspecified
T79.3 Post traumatic wound infection, not elsewhere classified
W46 Contact with hypodermic needle
Y92.9 Place of occurrence at or in unspecified place of occurrence
U73.9 Injury or poisoning occurring while engaged in unspecified activity

DECISION

The correct external cause code is W46 Contact with hypodermic needle.

[Effective 20 Jan 2010, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 6th Ed.]