Western Australian Coding Rule

0210/02  Femoral condyle ulcer or osteochondral defect

Q.
What is the correct diagnosis code assignment when femoral condyle ulcer or osteochondral defect is the only documented diagnosis for matrix-induced autologous chondrocyte implantation (MACI) with high tibial osteotomy (HTO)?

A.
“Femoral condyle ulcer” or “osteochondral defect” is non-specific documentation which does not indicate whether the affected area is cartilage or bone. Clarification should be sought from the clinician. If this is not possible, code as articular cartilage disorder.

The index pathway: Disorder - cartilage -- articular takes you to block M24 Other specific joint derangements. By following the exclusion note, the correct code assignment for articular cartilage disorder of knee is M23.89 Other internal derangements of knee, unspecified ligament or unspecified meniscus.

Coders are also reminded that ACS 1343 Erosion of knee should be followed where applicable.

DECISION
Attempt to obtain clarification from the clinician to ascertain whether the affected area is cartilage or bone. If this is not possible, assign M23.89 Other internal derangements of knee, unspecified ligament or unspecified meniscus.

[Effective 17 Feb 2010, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 6th Ed.]