Western Australian Coding Rule

0318/34 Blood Alcohol Level (BAL)

In ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Tenth Edition, a conversion of blood alcohol readings table was added to code Y90 Evidence of alcohol involvement determined by blood alcohol level to provide guidelines for code assignment. WA Coding Rule 0813/04 Blood Alcohol Level (BAL) is therefore retired.

DECISION

WA Coding Rule 0813/04 Blood Alcohol Level (BAL) is retired.

[Effective 1 Jul 2017, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 10th Ed.]
Western Australian Coding Rule

0813/04 Blood Alcohol Level (BAL)

Q. Should codes from Y90 Evidence of alcohol involvement determined by blood alcohol level be assigned routinely?

A. ACS 0503 Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Use Disorders states, if there is documentation of the blood alcohol level, then a code from Y90 can be assigned, but only when a code of intoxication (F10.0), harmful use (F10.1) or dependence syndrome (F10.2) is applicable in the case being coded. Y90.9 and Y91 should never be assigned.

Also stated in Coding Matters vol. 15 no. 3, the documentation in the clinical record or reported hospital pathology laboratories does not always match the BAL stated in the Y90.x code ranges.

We believe the coding of Y90.x has never been reliable since its introduction. We recommend coders in WA do not code Y90.x when a BAL is documented.

DECISION

There is no requirement to assign a code from Y90.x when BAL is documented with F10.0, F10.1 or F10.2.

[Effective 21 Aug 2013, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ASC 8th Ed.]