Western Australian Coding Rule

0417/09 Decompression thoracic spinal cord posterior approach

WA Coding Rule 1209/05 *Decompression thoracic spinal cord posterior approach* is superseded by ACCD Coding Rule *Decompressive laminectomy of thoracic and lumbar spine by posterior approach* (Ref No: Q2958) effective 1 April 2017; (log in to view on the [ACCD CLIP portal](https://www.accd.com.au)).

**DECISION**

WA Coding Rule 1209/05 *Decompression thoracic spinal cord posterior approach* is retired.

[Effective 01 April 2017, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 9th Ed.]
Western Australian Coding Rule

1209/05 Decompression thoracic spinal cord posterior approach

Q.
What is the correct code for T11/12 decompressive laminectomy for spinal cord compression? The surgeon took a posterior approach; however there doesn't seem to be a code that matches this. All available codes seem to relate to an anterior approach. The closest code seems to be 90024-00 - Decompression of lumbar spinal canal.

A.
This procedure is coded to decompression - spinal cord -- thoracic --- via thoracotomy 40348-00 [47] (this code is not specified as being anterior or posterior, only thoracic in its approach).

DECISION
For decompression thoracic spinal cord posterior approach, assign:
40348-00 [47] Decompression of thoracic spinal cord via thoracotomy

[Effective 4 December 2009, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 6th Ed.]