Western Australian Coding Rule

0620/03  Cholestasis of pregnancy

Q. Which ICD-10-AM code(s) should be assigned for cholestasis of pregnancy, also known as obstetric cholestasis?

A.

Causes of cholestasis are broadly classified as either hepatocellular (impaired bile formation or release from liver cells) or obstructive (physical impedance/obstruction in a bile duct, such as stone or stricture).

Cholestasis is further categorised based on:

- The anatomical location of dysfunction or obstruction (intrahepatic or extrahepatic)
- Whether it is acute or chronic
- Whether or not hepatocellular damage occurs (pure/bland versus inflammation/hepatitis)

Cholestasis of pregnancy is a hepatocellular type of cholestasis, thus it is intrahepatic anatomical location. It is a diagnosis of exclusion, after excluding other forms of liver disease or cholestasis:

- Autoimmune hepatitis
- Hepatitis A, B, C or E
- Epstein Barr
- Cytomegalovirus
- Gall bladder disease
- Liver disease e.g. cirrhosis, acute fatty liver
- Early HELLP syndrome or preeclampsia
- Skin conditions e.g. eczema, pruritic eruption of pregnancy, scabies

The ICD-10-AM classification of “cholestasis NEC” is obstructive (K83.1 Obstruction of bile duct). There is no available ‘not otherwise specified’ (NOS) code for non-obstructive types of cholestasis.

K83.1 Obstruction of bile duct is clinically incorrect for cholestasis of pregnancy which is due to hepatocellular dysfunction rather than obstruction. This creates difficulty for coders in attempting to apply the Code also instruction at O26.6 Liver disorders in pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium in the Tabular List:

- Code also specific liver disorder, if known.
This query will be referred to IHPA. In the meantime, continue to assign O26.6 *Liver disorders in pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium* and K83.1 *Obstruction of bile duct* for cholestasis of pregnancy (consistent with 3M™ Codefinder™ code assignment).

**DECISION**

This query will be referred to IHPA. In the meantime, continue to assign O26.6 *Liver disorders in pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium* and K83.1 *Obstruction of bile duct* for cholestasis of pregnancy.

[Effective 1 July 2020, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 11th Ed.]