Western Australian Coding Rule

0916/09 Inflammation documented on histopathology report

Q.
The conclusion of a pathology report often states ‘inflammation’ of an organ. Should the Index be followed from ‘Inflammation, inflamed, inflammatory’ to assign ‘-itis’ codes for those organs?

A.
When ‘inflammation’ meets criteria for coding, carefully follow: the Index from lead term ‘Inflammation, inflamed, inflammatory;’ and the Index and Tabular instructions to assign the correct code.

Examples:
‘Oesophageal biopsy: inflammation’
Inflammation, inflamed, inflammatory $\rightarrow$ oesophagus $\rightarrow$ K20 Oesophagitis

‘Biopsy stomach: chronic superficial inflammation’
Inflammation, inflamed, inflammatory $\rightarrow$ stomach (see Gastritis) $\rightarrow$ Gastritis $\rightarrow$ chronic $\rightarrow$ superficial $\rightarrow$ K29.30 Chronic superficial gastritis, without mention of haemorrhage

‘Bile duct: inflammation’
Inflammation, inflamed, inflammatory $\rightarrow$ bile duct or passage (see also Cholangitis) $\rightarrow$ K83.0 Cholangitis

‘Endometrium: chronic inflammation’
Inflammation, inflamed, inflammatory $\rightarrow$ uterus (see also Endometritis) $\rightarrow$ Endometritis $\rightarrow$ chronic $\rightarrow$ N71.1 Chronic inflammatory disease of uterus.

‘Bladder: inflammation’
Inflammation, inflamed, inflammatory $\rightarrow$ bladder (see also Cystitis) $\rightarrow$ N30.9 Cystitis, unspecified

When ‘inflammation’ meets ACS criteria for coding and there is no sub-term for the inflamed organ under ‘Inflammation, inflamed, inflammatory,’ follow the Index from ‘Disease’ to assign the correct code (as per Conventions used in the Tabular List of Diseases, Example 44).
DECISION
When ‘inflammation’ of an organ meets criteria for coding, carefully follow the Index lead term ‘Inflammation, inflamed, inflammatory;’ and the Index and Tabular instructions to assign the correct code.

When there is no sub-term for the inflamed organ under ‘Inflammation, inflamed, inflammatory,’ follow the Index lead term ‘Disease’ to assign the correct code.

This advice has a minor modification to correspond with an update in ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Eleventh Edition.

[Effective 21 September 2016, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 9th Ed.]