Western Australian Coding Rule

1113/03 Bulging anterior fontanelle

Q. What is the correct code to assign for bulging anterior fontanelle?

A. A bulging anterior fontanelle in an infant may be a sign of a more serious condition such as encephalitis, hydrocephalus, meningitis, cerebral haemorrhage, intracranial abscess or other causes of raised intracranial pressure (D’Alessandro 2011; Fontanelles – bulging 2013).

There is no index entry for bulging anterior fontanelle. We recommend assigning R68.1 Nonspecific symptoms peculiar to infancy when bulging anterior fontanelle meets the criteria in ACS 0001 Principal diagnosis or ACS 0002 Additional diagnoses for it to be assigned. Bulging anterior fontanelle should not be routinely coded when noted on examination.

DECISION

Bulging anterior fontanelle should be coded to R68.1 Nonspecific symptoms peculiar to infancy when it meets the criteria in ACS 0001 Principal diagnosis or ACS 0002 Additional diagnoses.

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