

# Coding Notes

HIPE UNIT, ESRI



Issue 5

July 1999



## Summer's Here!



Hope you are all enjoying the Summer. Included in this edition of Coding Notes along with lots of coding advice and news of upcoming courses we have inserted a questionnaire about coder productivity. We would be grateful if you could complete and return this to us as part of a project to determine changing levels of productivity in hospitals with the increased workload on coders. Thank you. To help you with your summer coding here are some handy summer codes:

Hay fever: 477.9

Sunburn: 692.71

Burn from barbecue: E897

Bee sting: 989.5

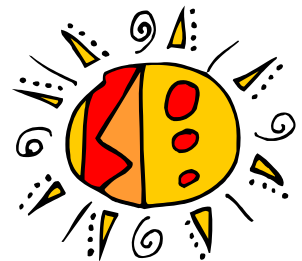


Dehydration: 276.5

Accident on the beach: E849.4

Sun stroke: 992.0

Accident caused by agricultural machinery: E919.0



Swimmer's cramp: 994.1, E910.2

Prickly heat / Heat rash: 705.1

Diving accident: E883.0

Pedal cycle accident: E826



### Area of Residence codes

Don't forget to use a patient's home address for their **Area of Residence code** and not the hotel or guesthouse where they're staying; e.g. Italy 3308, Spain 3313, America 3312 (all others).



# Cracking the Code!



Every month we get coding queries from coders all around the country. Some are straightforward and some are quite challenging... here are a few examples:

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**Question** - How would a status post CVA patient *with* residual quadriplegia be coded?

**Answer:** Assign code 438.53 - Other paralytic syndrome, bilateral, as this is a “Late Effect” of the CVA: and also code 344.09 - Quadriplegia and quadriparesis, other. Note that 438.5x has a ‘use additional code’ note (p961, Coding Book)

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**Question:** How do you code a procedure called a S.W.E.T.Z. procedure.

**Answer:** This is a Short Wire Excision of the Transformation Zone. This procedure is carried out on the cervix and is coded to 67.32

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**Question:** A patient was a restrained driver, involved in a motor vehicle accident, who suffered a head injury with brain concussion and brief loss of consciousness. Should a code from category 850, or category 854, or code 959.01, be assigned?

**Answer:** Assign code 850.1, concussion with brief loss of consciousness, and code E819.0, Motor vehicle accident of unspecified nature, driver, for the head injury with brain concussion caused by the car accident. When the head injury is specified as concussion, a code from category 854, Intracranial injury of other and unspecified nature or code 959.01, Head injury, unspecified, is inappropriate.

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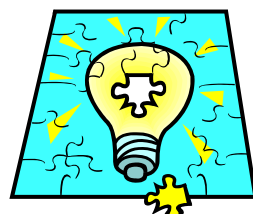
**Question:** The patient is 18 weeks pregnant and has a spontaneous delivery; the baby lived for two hours. The doctors noted probable cervical incompetence. How is this case coded?

**Answer:** The patient delivered a single liveborn infant; however, the delivery was very early at 18 weeks. The Principal Diagnosis code in this example is 644.21 – Early onset of delivery. This code indicates a livebirth, no matter how short a time they live for. Code also the cervical incompetence as 654.51. Finally as a birth occurred on this admission we would also code V27.0

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## References:

ICD-9-CM Coding Handbook, AHA 1998 Revised Edition. Editor Faye Brown.  
AHA Coding Clinic, 1998, 1999.



# Coding Corner

## Update reminders.

Most of you have started using the new 1999 updated codes and everyone seems to be doing well. Here are a few reminders of some of the changes:

**438 Late effects of cerebrovascular disease** used to indicate conditions in 430-437 as the cause of late effects, themselves classified elsewhere. Unlike other late effect codes, 438 can be used in **all** positions, principal or secondary, depending on the circumstances of the admission. It is only used on a subsequent admission to the stroke now causing the late effect identified in 438. When it appears on the same record as a code from 430-437 this is indicating that a new condition has occurred but there is also a late effect resulting from a previous condition in the 430-437 range.

Don't forget the new V-codes including:

**V58.6+** - Long term (current) drug use.

**V64.4** - Laparoscopic surgical procedure converted to open procedures.

**V66.7** - Palliative care . Always secondary after terminal illness code.

**Undermined/Unknown/Unspecified Circumstances of poisoning** is now coded to the E98+ range, with admission source = 3, 6 or 7 ONLY

### Obstetrics - Change of guideline:

**5th digit '3' to be used with obstetric complications associated with abortion (630-639) (previously '0')**

Fifth digit '3' refers to antepartum conditions or complications when delivery has *not* occurred.

A code from categories 640-648 and 651-657 may be used as additional codes with an abortion code to indicate the complication leading to the abortion.

Fifth digit 3 is assigned with codes from these categories when used with an abortion code because the other fifth digits will not apply. Codes from 660-669 series are not to be used for complications of abortion,

Sources: AHA CC & Coding Handbook.

## Seeing Double

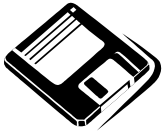
Disease processes which affect bilateral or multiple site generally are only coded once, e.g. Otitis media in two ears or Varicose veins in both legs. Fractures or wounds which are distinct conditions will be assigned separate codes unless where the classification allows for multiple coding using a single code.

If any coders would like a workshop specifically on Update '99 coding issues please contact us directly

# Upcoming H.I.P.E. courses

## H.I.P.E. Selector Courses

Following on from the success of our recent courses on the selector we are now offering the same course in July and August for coders who may have missed it.



### Basic Training on H.I.P.E. Selector:

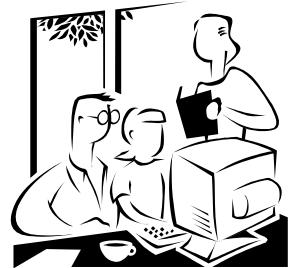
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 1999

1pm - 4pm

or

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 1999

1pm - 4pm



Please contact Claire Doble (01-6671525 Ext. 469) if you would like an application form.

## Next Basic Coding Course:

The next Basic Coding Course will be held in the E.S.R.I. on 13<sup>th</sup> July to 15<sup>th</sup> July 1999. Please contact Jacqui Curley (01-6671525 Ext. 470) immediately for an application form if you have any candidates for this course.

## Upcoming Workshops:

We are planning to hold a series of workshops in October. If you are interested in a particular coding topic please let us know by 20<sup>th</sup> August 1999.



Please don't forget to load the new version of H.I.P.E. and return your postcard

*If you have any ideas for future topics for Coding Notes please let us know. Enjoy the Summer. Thanks and keep in touch.*

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