



Western Australian Coding Rule

0613/03 Constipation with overflow diarrhoea

Q.

Can “overflow diarrhoea” be assigned to K52.8 *Other specified non-infective gastroenteritis and colitis*, i.e. can we assume that it is non-infectious (other specified), because it is stated as “overflow due to constipation”, or should we just code the diarrhoea to the default code A09.9 *Gastroenteritis and colitis of unspecified origin*?

A.

One of the most typical symptoms of constipation is overflow diarrhoea which occurs when the faeces become so hard that it cannot be expelled and faecal fluid will flow around the blockage.

As overflow diarrhoea is a symptom of constipation it should not be coded when present with constipation.

DECISION

Overflow diarrhoea due to constipation should not be coded.

[Effective 05 Jun 2013, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 7th Ed.]