Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Western Australian Coding Rule

0715/13 Microfracture of ankle

In ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Ninth Edition, an ACHI Index entry for Microfracture, ankle was created and an inclusion term added to code 49703-05 [1544] *Arthroscopic chondroplasty of ankle*. WA Coding Rule 0512/03 *Microfracture of ankle* is therefore retired.

DECISION

WA Coding Rule 0512/03 *Microfracture of ankle* is retired.

[Effective 01 Jul 2015, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 9th Ed.]

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0512/03 Microfracture of ankle

Q.

What is the correct code to assign for microfracture of the ankle? Is it correct to assign 49703-05 [1544] *Arthroscopic chondroplasty of ankle*?

A.

The 3M Codefinder takes microfracture of the knee to chondroplasty with multiple drilling or implant. This is due to the instruction in Coding Matters vol 11 number 4. Unfortunately there is no index entry for microfracture of the ankle. There is a code for chondroplasty of the ankle only. This is probably going to be the best fit for the clinical statement.

As stated in CM 11/4 Microfracture surgery is an articular cartilage repair surgical technique that works by creating tiny fractures in the underlying bone. This causes new cartilage to develop from a so-called super clot.

The correct code for ankle arthroscopy plus microfracture is 49703-05 [1544] *Arthroscopic chondroplasty of ankle*.

We will send this query to NCCC and see if we can have an indexed entry for microfracture for both knee and ankle in a future edition.

DECISION

The correct code for ankle arthroscopy plus microfracture is 49703-05 [1544] *Arthroscopic chondroplasty of ankle*.

[Effective 04 May 2012, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 7th Ed.]

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