



Western Australian Coding Rule

0719/05 Facet arthropathy of lumbar region

In ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Eleventh Edition (effective 1 July 2019), new ICD-10-AM Alphabetic Index entries were added for facet joint arthritis and retrolisthesis of spine.

WA Coding Rule 0112/02 *Facet arthropathy of lumbar region* is therefore retired.

DECISION

WA Coding Rule 0112/02 *Facet arthropathy of lumbar region* is retired.

[Effective 1 July 2019, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 11th Ed.]



Western Australian Coding Rule

0112/02 Facet arthropathy of lumbar region

Q.

When coding facet arthropathy one option is to go to the Index entry for Spondylosis of spine (code for lumbar M47.86) because it states that it includes arthrosis/OA of spine and degeneration of facet joints. The other option is to go to the Index entry for Arthropathy, (see also Arthritis) select “spine” and then select from the lumbar region code M46.96. Can you please clarify this apparent inconsistency as both codes appear to mean arthritis of spine?

A.

If the documentation is facet arthropathy the index must be followed and the correct code assignment will be M46.96 Unspecified inflammatory spondylopathy, lumbar region. The fact that there is an Includes note under M47 of degeneration of facet joints does not permit the coding of facet arthropathy to this code. We require a specific Excludes note under M46.9 to take us to M47. It is confusing when ACS 1334 describes spondylosis as arthritis of the spine – but the index look up for this is M46. We will query this with the NCCC.

DECISION

If the only documentation is facet arthropathy the index must be followed and the correct code assignment will be M46.96 Unspecified inflammatory spondylopathy, lumbar region. Coders are reminded to look for more specific diagnostic information where possible.

[Effective 18 January 2012, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 7th Ed.]