



Western Australian Coding Rule

1209/15 Augmentation of labour

Q.

I have a query as to how Augmentation is interpreted? A lady is in labour but whose membranes are not broken and there are no other complications, 5cm dilated and Doc does ARM. The problem is in the past we have been told not to code as this is just to help labour on, unless there is a problem. Can you please help and explain when to or not.

A.

In this scenario ARM should be coded, assign 90466-01 [1335] *Surgical Augmentation of labour*. As per Coding Commandments Vol 6 No 3: "Augmentation procedure codes are used only for patients who have a spontaneous labour. Any interventions assisting with the continuation of the spontaneous labour are classified as augmentation".

In some cases ARMs are performed for reasons such as "maternal request" or "bulging membranes". In these cases also code 90466-01 [1335] *Surgical Augmentation of labour*. When following the index pathway for Artificial Rupture Membranes, you will notice that surgical augmentation is a non-essential modifier i.e. we do not need to justify whether it was performed specifically for augmentation.

DECISION

Augmentation procedure codes are assigned only in cases of spontaneous labour. Code also any diagnosis(es) necessitating augmentation if documented.

[Effective 04 Dec 2009, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 6th Ed.]