

2019

Coders' Dictionary

Defining medical terms from a coding
and reimbursement perspective

Sample page



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Introduction

Congratulations on your decision to purchase the *Coders' Dictionary*, the only medical dictionary designed exclusively for medical coders, billers, and reimbursement professionals. It was created when our own clinical editors discovered traditional medical dictionaries often did not provide answers to their coding questions. Unlike more traditional medical dictionaries, *Coders' Dictionary* lays the groundwork for understanding medical terminology from a coding perspective, enhancing the ability to interpret a medical record and more accurately code a claim.

The intention of the *Coders' Dictionary* is not to provide definitions for all conceivable medical terms, but instead to focus on definitions that may confound a coder or biller. Subsequently, while a certain basic level of medical terminology knowledge is presumed of a coder, the *Coders' Dictionary* is continuing to include common medical abbreviations and anatomical definitions particularly with the implementation of ICD-10. The additional specificity inherent with ICD-10 places a greater emphasis on anatomy and physiology and including these terms can help ease a coder's transition by allowing for quick and easy reference of key anatomic terms and common abbreviations frequently seen in medical documentation.

To create *Coders' Dictionary*, Optum360 coding experts generated a list of ambiguous or vexing words found in the medical record or in billing and reimbursement communications, in addition to standard anatomy and physiology terminology and common medical abbreviations. The words may be acronyms, eponyms, or abbreviations, or they may represent generic or brand name medical devices or pharmaceuticals. Unusual procedural, anatomical, or epidemiological terminology from the medical record is also included. The goal of *Coders' Dictionary* is to provide specific definitions and sometimes instructions that accommodate the narrow focus of the medical coder or biller. In some cases, the definition may direct the reader to a single, specific code. In other cases, only a general clinical definition is necessary to provide a road map to appropriate code selection.

Contents

Coders' Dictionary is comprised of different segments, including anatomical illustrations, the main body of alphabetically ordered terms with coding information for ICD-10-CM, CPT®, and HCPCS Level II coding, and Appendixes of tables for metric conversions.

Organization

Terms and Definitions

The entries in the main body of the book are organized in numeric and alphabetic order, with numeric entries preceding the alphabetic entries. The term being defined will appear in bold, at the beginning of the entry.

Compound nouns will appear in their natural language order:

radiotherapy afterloading

rather than:

afterloading, radiotherapy

Following the bolded term will be a definition appropriate to coding and reimbursement and sometimes coding instructions. If the term being defined is an acronym, the first words of the definition will provide the acronym's actual meaning:

TCD Transcranial Doppler. Noninvasive ultrasound technology used to evaluate blood flow in the major intracranial arteries. TCD done with contrast is performed by intravenous microbubble injection, in which the bubbles serve to enhance ultrasound signals, thereby producing better visualization.

Prefixes and Suffixes

Prefixes and suffixes used in medical terminology are incorporated alphabetically into the main body of the book. These are not complete words; only the beginning (prefix) or end (suffix) of a word appears with its meaning. Each partial word has a meaning:

cyst- Relating to the urinary bladder or a cyst. (prefix)

-ectomy Excision, removal. (suffix)

These partial words can be put together to define a complete word:

cystectomy 1) Excision or removal of the urinary bladder. **2)** Excision or removal of a cyst on any anatomical site.

Prefixes and suffixes are typically not seen in medical documentation as stand-alone words.

Multiple Definitions

Some definitions in the main body of the book have multiple meanings. These are presented in two ways in the *Coders' Dictionary*. The first way in which

aldosterone Major mineralocorticoid hormone secreted from the adrenal cortex that promotes the retention of sodium, excretion of potassium, and retention of water. It is used to diagnose primary hyperaldosteronism in patients who present with hypertension when high levels of aldosterone are present in blood and/or urine with low levels of plasma renin.

Associated CPT Code(s): 80408, 82088

Aldrich (-Wiskott) syndrome Inherited immunodeficiency with eczema, thrombocytopenia, recurrent pyogenic infection, and increased susceptibility to infection with encapsulated bacteria. **Synonym(s):** *Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome*.

Associated ICD-10-CM Code(s): D82.0

ALDs Assistive listening device. Directed hearing aid. ALDs include microphones placed near a teacher, transmitting the sound to a receiver with the patient, or amplifiers attached to a phone, television set, or radio. The advantage of ALDs is that unlike traditional hearing aids, only one source of sound is amplified, without amplification of background noise.

Associated HCPCS Code(s): V5268-V5274

Ale-Calo syndrome Congenital defect characterized by a combination of intellectual disabilities and deformities, including peculiar faces with bulb-like nose, small head, little hair, redundant skin, multiple exostoses, and joint laxity. **Synonym(s):** *Langer-Giedion syndrome*.

Associated ICD-10-CM Code(s): E78.71, Q87.3, Q87.5, Q87.81, Q87.89, Q89.8

alefacept Immunosuppressive drug given to adult patients with moderate to severe plaque psoriasis, who are candidates for systemic or phototherapy. It inhibits lymphocyte activation at the cellular level. May be sold under the brand name Amevive.

Associated HCPCS Code(s): J0215

alemtuzumab Antineoplastic drug given for chemotherapy to treat B-cell chronic lymphocytic leukemia (B-CLL). Alemtuzumab is reserved for patients treated with alkylating drugs and for whom fludarabine therapy has failed. May be sold under the brand name Campath.

Associated HCPCS Code(s): J0202

Aleppo boil Dry or urban cutaneous leishmaniasis, one form of Old World cutaneous leishmaniasis. This parasitic skin disease is caused by the protozoa *Leishmania tropica*, spread by the bite of sand flies, and occurring in large urban areas in the Middle East, especially Iran and Iraq, the Mediterranean, and India. Manifestation is mainly a single, large developing boil or furuncle type lesion that persists over a year. Lymphadenopathy may be present. **Synonym(s):**

Baghdad boil, Biskra boil, Delhi boil, Gafsa boil, Jericho boil.

Associated ICD-10-CM Code(s): B55.1

Alexander's operation Uteral displacement is repaired by shortening round ligaments.

Associated CPT Code(s): 58400, 58410

alexia Impairment of the ability to comprehend written words that may be acquired as a result of a cerebral lesion.

Associated ICD-10-CM Code(s): R48.0

Alferon-N. See interferon.

Associated HCPCS Code(s): J9215

Alfi's syndrome Rare congenital defect with a complex of disorders, including intellectual disabilities and muscle weakness, caused by a defect on the ninth chromosome. **Synonym(s):** *monosomy 9P-minus syndrome*.

Associated ICD-10-CM Code(s): Q93.89

alglucerase Enzyme used in the treatment of Type I Gaucher disease with severe symptoms. Gaucher disease is the most common lipid-storage disorder, due to lack of the enzyme glucocerebrosidase. Alglucerase is a modified form of the enzyme beta-glucocerebrosidase and catalyzes the hydrolysis of the glycolipid, glucocerebroside, into glucose and ceramide as it would normally degrade. May be sold under the brand name Ceredase.

Associated HCPCS Code(s): J0205

alglucosidase alfa Injectable pharmaceutical indicated for the treatment of Pompe disease (GAA deficiency). May be sold under the brand name Myozyme or Lumizyme.

Associated HCPCS Code(s): J0220, J0221

algology 1) Medicinal study of pain and pain management. 2) Botanical study of algae.

algoneurodystrophy Neuropathy of the peripheral nervous system.

Alibert-Bazin syndrome Malignant neoplasm resembling a fungus and growing outside of the body.

Associated ICD-10-CM Code(s): C84.00, C84.09

Alice in Wonderland syndrome Organic disorder with patient presenting an illusion of dreams, feelings of levitation, and alteration of passage of time. Associated with epilepsy, migraines, and other problems of the parietal part of the brain.

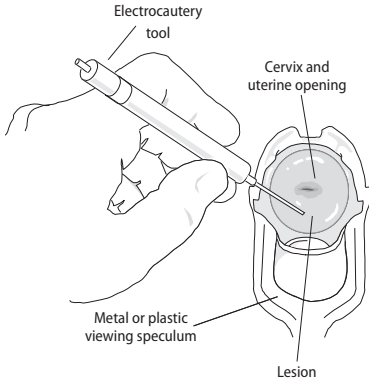
Associated ICD-10-CM Code(s): F06.1, F53

ALIF Anterior lumbar interbody fusion. Surgical procedure done on the spine to fuse two or more lumbar vertebrae. Lumbar fusion is often done for cases of degenerative disease affecting the intervertebral discs. The intervertebral discs are removed at the same time for decompression. Anterior fusion is accomplished by

electrocardiographic rhythm derived Analysis of data obtained from readings of the heart's electrical activation, including heart rate and rhythm, variability of heart rate, ST analysis, and T-wave alternans. Other data may also be assessed when warranted.

reported separately. When electrodes are placed in the body as part of a permanent implantable device, the placement, replacement, or repositioning, and removal may have separately identifiable codes based on location, access route, and type of device.

Electrocautery



electrocautery Division or cutting of tissue using high-frequency electrical current to produce heat, which destroys cells.

Associated CPT Code(s): 17000-17286

electrocorticography Electrodes placed onto specific areas of the brain to record the brain's electrical activity while the cortex is irrigated to localize areas of seizure activity in patients with intractable epileptic seizures who are surgical candidates for excising the epileptic focus or a lobectomy.

Associated CPT Code(s): 61531, 61533, 61536, 61538, 61539

Associated ICD-10-CM Code(s): G40.011-G40.019, G40.111-G40.119, G40.211-G40.219, G40.311-G40.319, G40.411-G40.419, G40.803-G40.804, G40.91, G40.A11-G40.A19, G40.B11-G40.B19

electroculogram Method used to measure movement of the eye by placing electrodes around the eye. This test is helpful in determining rapid eye movement in sleep studies.

electrode Electric terminal specialized for a particular electrochemical reaction that acts as a medium between a body surface and another instrument, commonly termed a "lead." An electrode may carry a current of electrical activity from the body to a recording instrument, such as in electroencephalography or echocardiography, or it may conduct current into the body from a generator source, such as in pacemakers and cardioverter-defibrillators (AICDs). Placing leads on the skin surface as part of a graph recording is not

electrode array Electronic device containing more than one contact whose function can be adjusted during programming services. Electrodes are specialized for a particular electrochemical reaction that acts as a medium between a body surface and another instrument.

electroejaculation Procedure that uses an electrovibratory device that stimulates ejaculation in order to collect semen for artificial insemination. This technique is most often used when a patient is paraplegic and wanting to reproduce.

Associated CPT Code(s): 55870

Associated ICD-10-PCS Code(s): 8E0VX63

electroencephalography Testing involving amplification, recording, and analysis of the electrical activity of the brain.

electromechanical equipment Mechanical devices or systems that are electrically activated, as by a solenoid. May also include the use of computerized equipment for testing or training.

electromyogram Recording of nerve stimulation to determine if muscle weakness is present and if it is related to the muscles themselves or a problem with the nerves that supply the muscles.

electromyography Test that measures muscle response to nerve stimulation determining if muscle weakness is present and if it is related to the muscles themselves or a problem with the nerves that supply the muscles.

electron Negatively charged particle of an atom.

electronic Carrying of electrons.

electronic claim Claim submitted by a provider or an electronic media claim (EMC) vendor via central processing unit (CPU) transmission, tape, diskette, direct data entry, direct wire, dial-in telephone, digital fax, or personal computer upload or download. Effective October 1, 1993, clean claims submitted to Medicare electronically are paid 13 days after the claim is received.

electronic commerce Exchange of business information by electronic means.

electronic data interchange Transference of claims, certifications, quality assurance reviews, and utilization data via computer in X12 format. May refer to any electronic exchange of formatted data.

electronic health record Electronic version of individual patients' health-related information that has the interoperability to be created, managed, and consulted by more than one health care