

Coding For Fractures

Fracture Due to Osteoporosis

"A code from category M80, not a traumatic fracture code, should be used for any patient with known osteoporosis who suffers a fracture, even if the patient had a minor fall or trauma, if that fall or trauma would not usually break a normal, healthy bone." ICD-10-CM, I.C.13.d.2.

Examples:

- Age-related osteoporosis **with** current pathological fracture, vertebra(e) – M80.08X* (A, D, G, K, P, S)
- Age-related osteoporosis **without** current pathological fracture – M81.0

Fracture Due to Tumor

A code from category M84.5, not a traumatic fracture code, should be used for fractures caused by a tumor.

Example: Pathological fracture in neoplastic disease, other specified site (for vertebra) – M84.58X* (A, D, G, K, P, S)

Stress Fracture

Stress fractures are to be coded from category M84.3, by fracture location. They should **not** be coded as traumatic fractures.

Example: Stress fracture, left ankle – M84.372* (A, D, G, K, P, S)

Other Pathological Fracture

Other pathological fractures, including chronic, should be coded from category M84.4. Pathological fractures in other disease are coded from category M84.6. Category M84.7 is used for nontraumatic fracture, not elsewhere classified, and atypical fracture. All will require a 7th digit (A, D, G, K, P, S).

Examples:

- Chronic fracture, right shoulder – M84.411*
- Pathological fracture in other disease, left foot – M84.675*
- Incomplete atypical femoral fracture, left leg – M84.752*

Fracture Due to Trauma – Acute Fracture

Acute, traumatic fractures are coded from Chapter 19 of ICD-10-CM.

Not indicated as open or closed – code closed

Not indicated as displaced or not displaced – code displaced

Examples:

- Wedge compression fracture, third thoracic vertebra – S22.030* (A, B, D, G, K, S)
- Wedge compression fracture, first lumbar vertebra – S32.010* (A, B, D, G, K, S)
- Displaced mid-cervical fracture, right femur – S72.031* (A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, J, K, M, N, P, Q, R, S)

*7th Digits for Fractures

- A – Initial – active treatment of closed fracture (i.e., not merely follow up)
- B – Initial – active treatment of open fracture type I or II or NOS (i.e., not merely follow up)
- C – Initial – active treatment of open fracture type IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC (i.e., not merely follow up)
- D – Subsequent, closed fracture, routine healing or recovery phase, active treatment completed
- E – Subsequent, open fracture type I or II, routine healing or recovery phase, active treatment completed
- F – Subsequent, open fracture type IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC, routine healing or recovery phase
- G – Subsequent, closed fracture with delayed healing
- H – Subsequent, open fracture type I or II, with delayed healing
- J – Subsequent, open fracture type IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC, with delayed healing
- K – Subsequent, closed fracture with nonunion
- M – Subsequent, open fracture type I or II with nonunion
- N – Subsequent, open fracture type IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC with nonunion
- P – Subsequent, closed fracture with malunion
- Q – Subsequent, open fracture type I or II with malunion
- R – Subsequent, open fracture type IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC with malunion
- S – Sequela (i.e., complications or conditions that arise as a result of the fracture)

Initial, active treatment (A, B, C) – e.g., surgery, emergency room encounter, initial evaluation, cast, manipulation, and continuing treatment including a change in the plan of care.

Subsequent, routine healing, recovery phase (D, E, F) – e.g., physical therapy, patient following treatment plan set up during initial period, cast change or removal, checking for healing status, medication adjustment, removal of fixation device (internal or external).

Reporting of the 7th digit must keep up with the phase of care and status of the fracture. Sequela may be reported at any time.

Healed Fractures

When described as remote, healed, no current fracture or dislocation, without acute fracture, etc., a former fracture may be coded as a personal history.

- Z87.81 – Personal history of (healed) traumatic fracture
- Z87.310 – Personal history of (healed) osteoporosis fracture
- Z87.311 – Personal history of (healed) other pathological fracture
- Z87.312 – Personal history of (healed) stress fracture

References:

ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2025-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf>

Coding for ICD-10-CM: More of the Basics: <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/NPC/Downloads/2014-12-01-ICD-10-Presentation.pdf>

Note: ICD-10 codes are current as of January, 2025.