DIAGNOSIS CODING ESSENTIALS FOR LONG-TERM CARE: CHAPTER 21, ZCODES & PRINCIPAL DIAGNOSIS

Preferred Clinical Services for Leading Age Florida
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PRINCIPAL VS. PRIMARY DIAGNOSIS

- Typically used interchangeably
  - **Principal** ("first-listed" diagnosis)
    - The *reason* resident was admitted
    - Sequenced first
    - Box 69 on UB-04
    - Will not change during admission
  - **Primary** is the *condition* that caused the admission and/or *reason for therapy services* (medical diagnosis); box 67 A
    - 67 A-W support principle diagnosis (therapy treatment)
    - CMS only sees top eight
    - Sequencing is of the essence
    - May change during stay
Do NOT assign codes based on pay source!
RULE

• When a LTC patient is transferred to the hospital and returns to the center, the primary diagnosis is the reason the resident continues to reside in the center, regardless of whether therapy is ordered.

• Sequence new and/or acute codes AFTER the primary diagnosis used by the center.

EX: Resident in center for Parkinson’s. Goes to hospital for fracture and returns on therapy.
WHAT YOU TALKIN BOUT WILLIS
THERAPY MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS

- Must be the medical reason to support therapy services
- May or may not be same principal as center uses
- Be sure to include in top eight codes
DIAGNOSIS SELECTION

• WHAT to Code
  • Based on Section I of the MDS (must meet both)
    • Physician Documented in 60 days
    • Active in seven days
      • Functional Status
      • Cognitive Status
      • Mood or Behavior Status
      • Medical Treatments
      • Nurse Monitoring
      • Risk of Death
DIAGNOSIS SELECTION

• WHEN to code
  • Admission
  • Return from Transfer
  • As New Conditions Arise
  • Per MDS Schedule
  • On Discharge

NOTE: It is very important to discontinue diagnoses as appropriate!
CODES THAT AFFECT RUGS

- Pneumonia
- Septicemia
- Diabetes
- Cerebral Palsy
- Hemiplegia/Hemiparesis
- Quadruplegia
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Parkinson’s
- Asthma
- COPD
- Respiratory Failure
RESIDENT ADMITTED FOR INJURY

• According to Coding Clinic, “when a patient is admitted to the LTC facility specifically for rehab following an injury, assign the acute injury code with the appropriate 7th character as the first-listed diagnosis.”

• Example: Rt admitted for therapy to treat traumatic fracture of pelvis.
ACUTE CONDITIONS

- When patient is treated at hospital for an acute medical condition and is admitted to SNF for therapy, code the acute condition as the principle diagnosis, followed by chronic conditions that meet the RAI guidelines.

- Any acute condition that requires follow up or monitoring should be coded as long as it persists and meets RAI guidelines.
Do NOT code conditions that resolve before admission to the SNF (AMS, GI bleed, Cholecystitis with Cholecystectomy, e.g.)
RESOLVED CONDITIONS

It is inaccurate to report an acute code for a resolved condition because it directly contradicts the Official Coding Guidelines and is non-compliant with HIPAA regulations.
AFTERCARE CODES

• Assigned for aftercare following surgical procedures performed in the hospital for which the patient is sent to the SNF to recover.

• Examples
  • AAA repair (aftercare for surgery to the circulatory system)
  • Joint Replacement
MEDICARE PART B

• A “reasonable and necessary” diagnosis is required
• Primary will still be reason the resident continues to reside in center
• Use treatment diagnoses to support services and sequence appropriately
WHAT ARE Z CODES?

Z Codes Represent **Reasons** for Encounters. Formerly V codes.

- Significant past health histories
- Services provided following an acute care episode
- Aftercare services
- Screenings, tests & vaccinations
- Problems influencing health status but which is not a current illness.
Significant Change for LTC

There is no comparable category in ICD-10-CM to ICD-9’s V57 category - Care Involving Use of Rehabilitation Procedures
USE OF Z CODES

There are three coding guidelines:

- Use of Z codes in any healthcare setting
- Z Codes indicate a reason for an encounter;
- Categories of Z codes
USE OF Z CODES

Coding Guidelines: Use of Z codes in any Healthcare Setting

• Zcodes are for use in any healthcare setting
• Zcodes may be used as either first-listed or secondary diagnosis, depending on the circumstances of the encounter
• Certain Zcodes may only be used as first-listed or principal diagnosis.
• See the Official Coding Guidelines for a list of codes.
Z89.419

Acquired absence of unspecified great toe

Alex Connelly - Pen, Colored Pencil on Paper 10"x8"
Alex Connelly is an artist from Madison, WI. His focus is in digital and analog/experimental photography as well as painting and mixed media.

After years of toe-tal bliss, Mr. Halus put on his best pants and left to discover the world.
Categories of Z Codes

Contact / Exposure

- **Z20** - Residents who do not show any signs or symptoms of a disease but are suspected to have been exposed to it by close personal contact or are in an area where a disease is epidemic.

- **Z77** - Contact with and suspected exposures hazardous to health.
CATEGORIES OF Z CODES

Z20 Contact with and (suspected) exposure to communicable disease

Excludes 1: Carrier of Infectious disease (Z22.-)
Diagnosed current infectious or parasitic disease
See Alphabetic Index

Excludes 2: Personal history of infectious & parasitic disease
(Z86.1-)

Example: Z20.1 Contact with and (suspected) exposure to tuberculosis
Z CODES

Z77 Contact with and suspected exposures hazardous to health

Includes 1: Contact with and (suspected) exposures to potential hazards to health

Excludes 2: Contact with and (suspected) exposures to communicable diseases (Z20.-)

Example:

Z77.22 Contact with and (suspected) exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (acute) (chronic)

Exposure to second hand tobacco smoke (acute) (chronic)

Passive smoking (acute) (chronic)
Z CODES

- **Z23 Inoculations and Vaccinations**
  - Code Z23 is for encounters for inoculations and vaccinations.
  - It indicates that a patient is being seen to receive a prophylactic inoculation against a disease.
ZCODES

Status

• Indicate that a patient is either a carrier of a disease or has the residual of a past disease or condition.
• Includes presence of prosthetic or mechanical devices resulting from past treatment.
• A status code is informative, because the status may affect the course of treatment or outcome.
ZCODES

• Common Status Codes in Post-Acute Care
  Z16  Resistance to antimicrobial drugs
  Z21  Asymptomatic HIV infection status
  Z22  Carrier of infectious disease
  Z68  Body Mass Index (BMI)
  Z79  Long-term (current) drug therapy
  Z89  Acquired absence of limb
Z CODES

Z90 Acquired absence of organs
Z93 Artificial opening status
Z94 Transplanted organ & tissue status
Z95 Presence of cardiac & vascular implants & graft
Z96 Presence of other functional implants
Z97 Presence of other devices
Z99 Dependence on enabling machines & devices, NEC
• Resistance to Antimicrobial Drugs
  Z16

Note: The codes in this category are provided for use as additional codes to identify the resistance and non-responsiveness of a condition to antimicrobial drugs.

Excludes 1: Code first the infection
  MRSA Infections (A49.02)
  MRSA Infections in diseases classified elsewhere (B95.62)
  MRSA pneumonia (J15.212)
  Sepsis due to MRSA (A41.02)
Z22  Carrier of Infectious Disease

Colonization status

Suspected carrier

Example:

Z22.322  Carrier or (suspected) carrier of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus

MRSA colonization
Z79  Long Term (current) drug therapy

- Indicate a patient’s continued use of a prescribed drug for the long-term treatment of a condition or for prophylactic use.
- Not used for patients with addictions to drugs.
- Used for patients receiving a medication for an extended period of time.
**Long Term (current) Drug Therapy**

Includes: long term (current) drug use for prophylactic purposes

Code also any therapeutic drug level monitoring (Z51.81)

Excludes 2 drug abuse and dependence (F11-F19)

Drug use complicating pregnancy, childbirth, & puerperium

- Z79.2 Long term (current) use of **antibiotics**
- Z79.51 Long term (current) use of **inhaled steroids** (NEW)
- Z79.52 Long term (current) use of **systemic steroids** (NEW)
- Z79.82 Long term (current) use of **aspirin**
- Z79.83 Long term (current) use of **bisphosphonates** (NEW)
- Z79.890 Long term (current) use of **hormone replacement**
ABSENCE CODES

Z89  Acquired Absence of Limb
Z90  Acquired Absence of Organ

Examples:

- Z89.432  Acquired absence left foot
- Z89.611  Acquired absence right leg above the knee
- Z90.12  Acquired absence left breast and nipple
- Z90.5   Acquired absence of kidney
Z93  Artificial Opening Status
Z94  Transplanted Organ Status

Examples:

• Z93.1 Gastrostomy status
• Z93.3 Colostomy status
• Z93.51 Cutaneous-vesicostomy status
• Z94.0 Kidney transplant status
• Z94.7 Corneal transplant status
**Z95 Presence of Cardiac and Vascular Implants and Grafts**

Examples:

- **Z95.5 Presence of coronary angioplasty implants & grafts** *(New)*

Excludes 1: coronary angioplasty status without implant & graft *(Z98.61)*

- **Z95.820 Peripheral vascular angioplasty status with implants & grafts** *(New)*

Excludes 1: peripheral vascular angioplasty without implant and graft *(Z98.62)*
Z CODES

Z96  Presence of Other Implants
Z97  Presence of Other Devices

Examples:
• Z96.642  Presence of left artificial hip joint  
  (Notice laterality – codes for left, right  
  & bilateral)

• Z97.1-  Presence of artificial limb (complete)  
  (partial)

  Code for left, right, and bilateral
Z CODES

Z98  Other Post-procedural States
Z99  Dependence on Enabling Machines

• Z98.42  Cataract extraction status, left eye
  (Notice laterality codes for left, right & unspecified)

• Z98.85  Transplant organ removal status

• Z99.2  Dependence on renal dialysis
History (of) - Personal and Family History

- Condition is no longer active or treated, but has potential for recurrence and therefore may require continued monitoring.

- Acceptable on any medical record, as the history of an illness is important information that may alter the type of treatment ordered.
History Codes

History (of) - Personal Neoplasms & other Diseases

Z85.3  Personal history of malignant neoplasm of breast
Z86.14 Personal history MRSA infection
Z86.31 Personal history of diabetic foot ulcer
Z87.310 Personal history of (healed) osteoporosis fracture
Z87.891 Personal history of nicotine dependence
HISTORY CODES

History Psychological Trauma & other Risk Factors

Z91.412  Personal history of adult neglect
Z91.5    Personal history of self-harm
Z91.81   History of falling (At risk for falls)
HISTORY CODES

Personal History of Medical Treatment
Z92.21  Personal history of antineoplastic chemotherapy
Z92.23  Personal history of estrogen therapy
Z92.240 Personal history of inhaled steroid therapy
Z92.241 Personal history of systemic steroid therapy
Z92.3   Personal history of irradiation (therapeutic)
NOTE

• Z Codes are NOT to be used with Fractures
SURGICAL AFTERCARE

- Initial treatment of a disease has been performed and the patient requires continued care during the healing or recovery phase, or for the long-term consequences of the disease.

- Not used for injuries. For aftercare of an injury assign the acute injury code with the appropriate 7th character (for subsequent encounter)
AFTERCARE

- Aftercare Z codes should be used in conjunction with other aftercare codes or diagnosis codes to provide better detail on the specifics of an aftercare encounter visit.

- Certain aftercare Z codes categories need a secondary diagnosis code to describe the resolving condition or sequela.
**Aftercare + Status Codes**

Status Z codes may be used with aftercare Z codes to indicate the nature of the aftercare or to indicate the surgery for which the aftercare is being performed.

**Example:**

- **Z48.812**  Encounter for surgical aftercare following surgery on the circulatory system
- **Z95.1**  Presence of aortocoronary bypass graft - “CABG” status
Aftercare Categories

Z42 Plastic & reconstructive surgery following medical procedure or healed injury
Z43 Attention to artificial openings
Z44 Fitting & adjustment of external prosthetic device
Z45 Adjustment & management of implanted device
Z46 Fitting & adjustment of other devices
Z47 Orthopedic aftercare
Z48 Other post-procedural aftercare
Z49 Care involving renal dialysis
Z51 Other aftercare
Z CODES

**Z43 Attention to Openings**

**Z44 Fitting & Adjustment of Prosthetic Device**

- **Z43.3**  Encounter for attention to colostomy
- **Z43.5**  Encounter for attention to cystostomy
- **Z44.102**  Encounter for fitting & adjustment of left artificial leg
Z CODES

Z45 Adjustment of Implanted Device
  Z46 Fitting & Adjustment of other Device

Z45.2 Encounter for adjustment & management of vascular access devices
  Code for PICC Lines

Z46.8 Encounter for fitting and adjustment of non-vascular catheter
ORTHOPEDIC AFTERCARE

Z47  Orthopedic Aftercare

Excludes 1: Aftercare for healing fractures – code to fracture with 7th character D

Z47.1 Aftercare following joint replacement
   Use additional code to identify the joint (Z96.6-)

Z47.3 Aftercare following explantation of joint prosthesis

Z47.32 Aftercare following explantation of hip joint prosthesis
ORTHOPEDIC AFTERCARE

• Z47.8 Encounter for other Orthopedic Aftercare

• Z47.81 Encounter for orthopedic aftercare following surgical amputation
  Use additional code to identify the limb amputated (Z89-)

• Z47.82 Encounter for orthopedic aftercare following scoliosis surgery

• Z47.89 Encounter for other orthopedic aftercare
SURGICAL AFTERCARE

• Z48.3  Aftercare following Surgery for Neoplasm

• Z48.3  Aftercare following surgery for Neoplasm

  Use additional code to identify the neoplasm

• If an organ was removed, in total or partial, use a code for acquired absence of the organ also.
SURGICAL AFTERCARE

• Z48.3 Aftercare following Surgery for Neoplasm

Coding Example:

Patient with small cell carcinoma of the lung, status post right lower lobe resection of lung

• Z48.3 Aftercare following surgery for neoplasm
• C34.31 Primary malignant neoplasm right lower lobe, lung
• Z90.2 Acquired absence lung, partial
SURGICAL AFTERCARE

• Z48.81- Surgical Aftercare following Surgery on Specific Body Systems

NOTE: These codes identify the body system requiring aftercare. They are for use in conjunction with other aftercare codes to fully explain the aftercare encounter. The condition treated should also be coded if still present.

See excludes 1 and excludes 2 notes

Z48.812 Encounter for surgical aftercare following surgery on the circulatory system

Z48.815 Encounter for surgical aftercare following surgery on the digestive system
OTHER AFTERCARE

• Encounter for Other Aftercare
  Z51

Code also condition requiring care

• Z51.0   Encounter for antineoplastic radiation therapy
• Z51.11  Encounter for antineoplastic chemotherapy
• Z51.5   Encounter for palliative care
• Z51.81  Encounter for therapeutic drug level monitoring

Code also any long term (current) drug therapy (Z79.-)
MISC. Z CODES

Z58 Problems related to physical environment
Z59 Problems related to housing & economic circumstances
Z60 Problems related to social environment
Z72 Problems related to lifestyle
Z74 Problems related to care provider dependency
MISC. Z CODES

Z76.3 Other boarders to healthcare facility
Z91.1- Patient’s non-compliance with medical treatment and regimen
Z91.83 Wandering in diseases classified elsewhere
Z Codes - Used only as Principal Diagnosis
There are several Z codes that may only be reported as the principal / first listed diagnosis.

• If a patient is admitted with more than one of these diagnoses, either may be listed as the principal diagnosis.

• See the Official Coding Guidelines for a list of codes.

• However, coders should familiarize oneself on these diagnoses to avoid sequencing errors.
Other Issues Coded in Post-Acute Care

- Z68  Body Mass Index (BMI)
- Z72.0 Tobacco Use
  Tobacco use NOS
    Excludes 1
    History of tobacco dependence (Z87.891)
    Nicotine dependence (F17.2-)
    Tobacco dependence (F17.2-)
    Tobacco use during pregnancy (O99.33-)
Admission following left total hip replacement

Aftercare following surgery for GI bleed

Aftercare following amputation of left foot