Scottish Clinical Coding Standards – OPCS

‘Conversion from’ codes in joint replacement/arthroplasty and joint fusion coding

OPCS4.8 Chapter W includes a number of categories relating to joint replacement/arthroplasty (W37–W58, W93–W98, O06–O08, O18, O21–O26 and O32) and to joint fusion (W60–W61, W64) which contain ‘conversion to’ and ‘conversion from’ codes.

The convention regarding ‘conversion’ coding has been that a ‘conversion to’ code must always be paired with an appropriate ‘conversion from’ code. However this pairing convention has prevented the SMR01 recording of laterality or site information for these procedures.

The Clinical Coding Review Group has decided that ‘conversion from’ codes (with fourth character .0) should no longer be recorded.

Instead ‘conversion to’ codes should be supplemented with either the appropriate laterality code (for named joint ‘conversion to’ codes such as W37.2 Conversion to total prosthetic replacement of hip joint using cement) or with the joint site code (for unnamed joint ‘conversion to’ codes such as W60.3 Conversion to arthrodesis and extra-articular bone graft NEC).

‘Conversion to’ codes should continue to be used following the definition of ‘conversion’ found in Chapter W of the OPCS4 Reference Manual.

Unicompartmental knee replacement

Primary unicompartmental knee replacement should be coded as:

W58.1 Primary resurfacing arthroplasty of joint / Z84.5 tibiofemoral joint

Revision unicompartmental knee replacement – a change of any component(s) of a unicompartmental knee replacement – should be coded as:

W58.2 Revision of resurfacing arthroplasty of joint / Z84.5 tibiofemoral joint

Laterality cannot be recorded in these cases.

Revision (conversion) of unicompartmental to total knee replacement should be coded as:

W40.2 Conversion to total prosthetic replacement of knee joint using cement

or

W41.2 Conversion to total prosthetic replacement of knee joint not using cement

or

W42.2 Conversion to total prosthetic replacement of knee joint NEC

For more information visit: www.isdscotland.org/Products-and-Services/Terminology-Services
O18.2 Conversion to hybrid prosthetic replacement of knee joint using cement recorded with a laterality code from Z94.- Laterality of operation.

NOTE: This standard supersedes the previous standard ‘Unicondylar / Unicompartmental knee joint replacement’ Coding Quarterly 6, April 1998.

**Patellar resurfacing / patellar button**

Patellar resurfacing (implantation of patellar button) may occur

- at the same time as primary or revisional unicompartmental or total knee replacement (UKR or TKR)
- following a previous UKR or TKR
- in a knee where no replacement has occurred.

In each case the patellar resurfacing should be coded as follows:

**Primary patellar resurfacing**

W58.1 Primary resurfacing arthroplasty of joint / Z78.7 Patella

**Revision/ replacement/ removal of previously inserted patellar button**

W58.2 Revision of resurfacing arthroplasty of joint / Z78.7 Patella

Patellar resurfacing should be coded following any primary or revisional UKR / TKR codes if done at the same time.

**Note** that primary or revisional patellar resurfacing in a knee which already has UKR or TKR is not a revision of the UKR or TKR.

Laterality cannot be recorded when coding patellar resurfacing.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT CLINICAL CODING STANDARDS IN THIS EDITION APPLY TO ALL DISCHARGES ON AND AFTER 1ST APRIL 2019.**

**General Information**

**Terminology Advisory Service Helpdesk**

To help us provide you with the best service we can and to maintain and improve our response times please note the following reminder:

When contacting the helpdesk, if possible please provide, at the very minimum, an anonymised discharge letter and any other information you may find to assist us to answer your query accurately.

Please note that enquiries related to Parliamentary Questions should NOT be requested via email and should always be requested directly to an advisor via the telephone helpdesk or to Janice Watson (0141-282-2271) or Richmond Davies (0131-275-6195) outwith helpdesk hours.

Thank you for you co-operation.

**The Terminology Helpdesk Team.**

Helpdesk phone (Tues - Thurs 9-5pm): 0131 275 7283
Helpdesk e-mail (Tues - Thurs 9-5pm): NSS.terminologyhelp@nhs.net

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