Scottish Clinical Coding Standards

No.33

Publication date: September 2022
## Version history

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Version</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>V1.0</td>
<td>22 August 2022</td>
<td>New document</td>
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Scottish Clinical Coding Standards - ICD-10

Surgical and subcutaneous emphysema

Where it is clear from the patient discharge or other supporting information that the patient has had no recent surgery or invasive medical procedure and that the surgical emphysema is not a complication of these, then the term ‘surgical emphysema’ should not be coded to T81.8 Other complications of procedures, not elsewhere classified, and the index trail ignored in this instance.

The most common other cause would be where subcutaneous emphysema is caused by injury or trauma. This situation would be coded to T79.7 Traumatic subcutaneous emphysema. No external cause code is required and a system ‘query’ should be accepted.

Other rare causes of subcutaneous emphysema may occur, such as infection, and these should be coded according to the clinical description provided.

**THIS GUIDANCE IS APPLICABLE FOR DISCHARGES FROM 1 OCTOBER 2022.**

**Staff News**

There have been some recent staff changes to Terminology Services in the last few months. We welcomed Ruth McPherson into the team in August to replace Graeme Elsby who took up a post with NHS Digital.

As a result of these changes regional tutor responsibilities are being reviewed over the next few months and you will be informed if there are any changes to your current contact. Meantime, any initial training requests for Tayside, should be directed to Rebecca Whiteoak and for Lanarkshire, and Forth Valley should be directed to Morag Christie in the first instance.
Further Information

Contacting the Terminology Services Helpdesk via email

A reminder when contacting the Terminology Helpdesk to include the following details:

- Subject line
- Details of query
- Provide an Information Source
- Contact details

Further guidance can be found in SCCS 32 March 2022.

Contact Us

Terminology Services website can be found here: https://www.isdscotland.org/products-and-services/terminology-services/

The Terminology Services helpdesk is open Tuesday to Thursday, 9am-5pm. We can be contacted by phone 0131 275 7823 or by email phs.terminologyhelp@phs.scot

When contacting the helpdesk please provide as much detail as possible about your request or query.

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