Documentation and Coding:
Fractures

CMS-HCC_V28 Model Updates

January 2024

At Healthfirst, we are committed to helping providers accurately document and code their patients' health records. Proper ICD-10 coding can provide a comprehensive view of a patient's overall health. Coding of fractures can be challenging when selecting a 7th character on the ICD-10-CM code. This tip sheet is intended to assist providers and coding staff with the documentation and **ICD-10-CM selection, along with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Hierarchical Condition Category (HCC) Version 28 Model Updates**, on services submitted to Healthfirst—specifically for fractures. It provides information from industry sources about proper coding practices. However, this document does not represent or guarantee that Healthfirst will cover and/or pay for services outlined. Coverage decisions are based on the terms of the applicable evidence of coverage and the provider's participation agreement. This includes the determination of any amounts that Healthfirst or the member owes the provider.

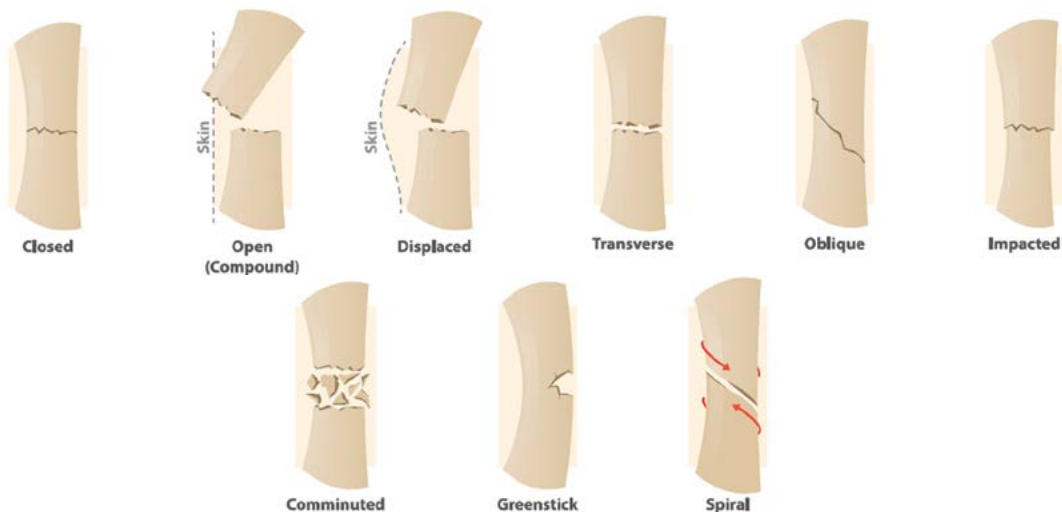There are two types of fractures: **traumatic** and **non-traumatic** (pathological).

To code fractures, identify the following:

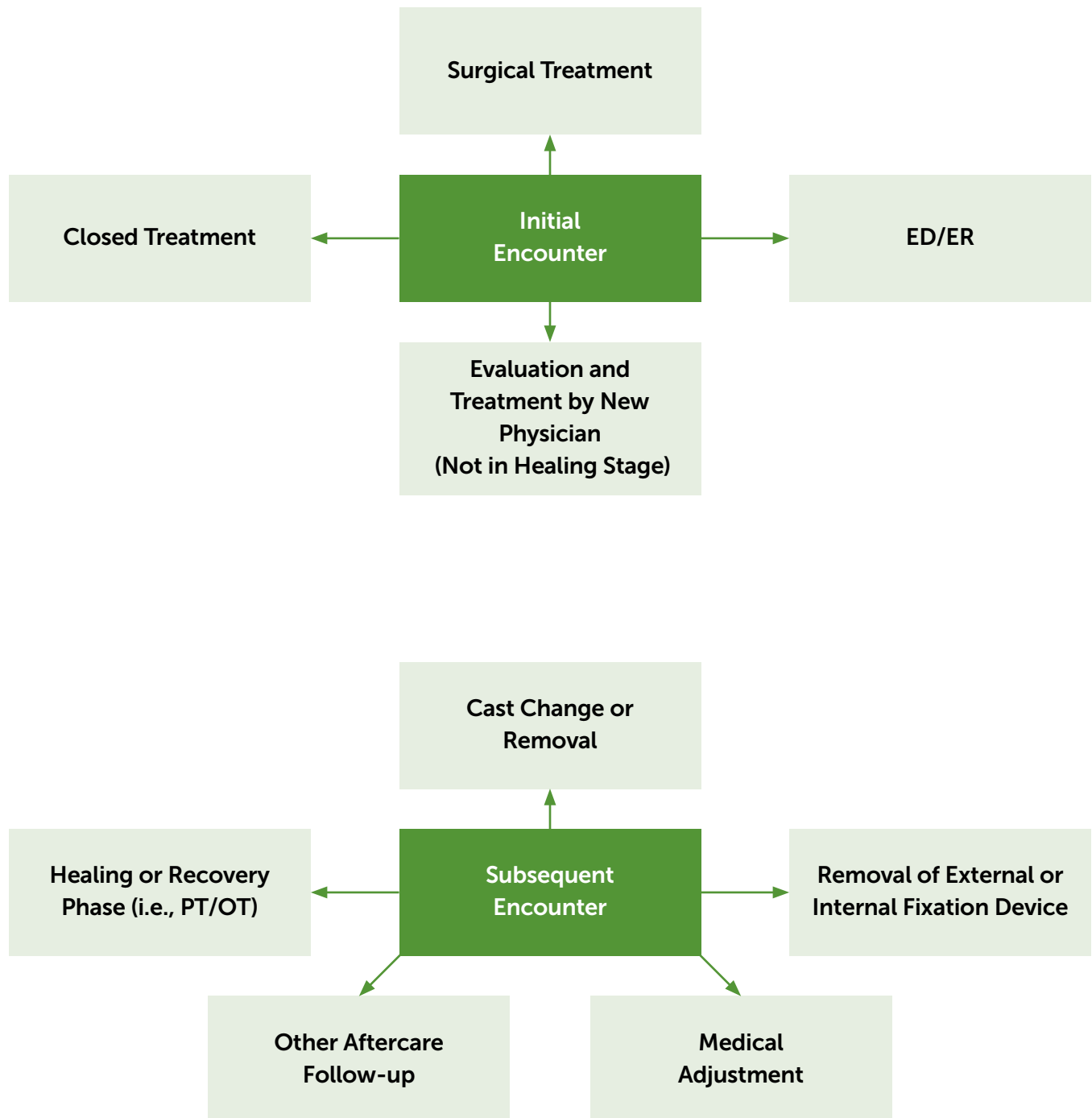|	
Traumatic or non-traumatic fracture	Site, laterality, and specific bones fractured
Associated injuries (i.e., nerves, spinal cord injuries)	Type of Encounter: Initial, Subsequent, or Sequela

Closed   Open (Compound)   Displaced   Transverse   Oblique   Impacted

Comminuted   Greenstick   Spiral

Documentation and Coding:
Fractures

Traumatic Fracture Diagnosis Codes

ICD-10-CM	Description
S02*	Skull and facial bones
S12*	Cervical vertebra and other parts of the neck
S22*	Ribs, sternum, and thoracic spine
S32*	Lumbar spine and pelvis
S42*	Shoulder and upper arm
S49*	Other injuries of shoulder/upper arm
S52*	Forearm
S59*	Other injuries of elbow and forearm
S62*	Wrist and hand
S72*	Femur
S79*	Other injuries of hip and thigh
S82*	Lower leg, including ankle
S89*	Other injuries of lower leg
S92*	Foot and toe, not including ankle
S99*	Other injuries of ankle and foot

*Requires an additional digit to complete the diagnosis code.

Fractures

Traumatic Fracture – Identifying an Initial or Subsequent Encounter

Surgical Treatment

Closed Treatment ← **Initial Encounter** → **ED/ER**

Evaluation and Treatment by New Physician (Not in Healing Stage)

Cast Change or Removal

Healing or Recovery Phase (i.e., PT/OT) ← **Subsequent Encounter** → **Removal of External or Internal Fixation Device**

Other Aftercare Follow-up

Medical Adjustment

Fractures

Non-Traumatic (Pathological) Fracture Diagnoses Codes

- Pathological fracture in neoplastic disease should be sequenced first, followed by the code for the neoplasm.

- If the treatment is the neoplasm with an associated pathological fracture, the neoplasm code should be sequenced first, followed by a code for the pathological fracture.

M80.0* - M80.0B9* Age-related osteoporosis with current pathological fracture	M80.8* - M80.8B9* Other osteoporosis with current pathological fracture
M84.3* - M84.38X* Stress fracture	**M84.40* - M84.68*** Pathological fracture

*Requires an additional digit to complete the diagnosis code.

Non-Traumatic Fracture — Identifying an Initial or Subsequent Encounter

Fractures in patients with known osteoporosis whose injury would not usually break a normal, healthy bone should not be classified with a traumatic injury code but with a combination code from category M80, Osteoporosis with current pathological fracture.

Initial Encounter (A)	Subsequent Encounter (D)
As long as the patient is receiving active treatment for the pathological fracture. 7th character is based on whether the patient is undergoing active treatment and not whether the provider is seeing the patient for the first time.	After the patient has completed active treatment for the pathological fracture and is receiving routine care for the fracture during the healing or recovery phase.

Documentation and Coding:
Fractures

Documentation Should Also Include			
Fracture	**Diagnostic Tools**	**Complications (If Any)**	**Treatment Plan**
▪ Traumatic ▪ Non-traumatic ▪ Date and cause ▪ History of non-traumatic	▪ i.e., X-rays, MRI	▪ i.e., Infections, Thrombosis, Cancer, etc. ▪ Other comorbidities	▪ Prognosis ▪ Medications ▪ Referrals for PT/OT ▪ Indicate if patient is in the healing stage ▪ Indicate if pathological fracture is due to other cause (i.e., Chronic steroid use, Vitamin deficiency, etc.)

Coding Tips:

- **Multiple fractures** are sequenced in accordance with the severity of the fracture

- **Displaced or nondisplaced** – when not specified, the default is displaced

- **Open or closed fracture** – when not specified, the default is closed

- **Open fractures** of forearm, femur, and the lower leg, including the ankle use the Gustilo classification:
    - Type I or type II
    - Type IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC
    - When the type is not specified, the default is type I or type II

- **Healing stage** includes the following key terms:
    - Routine healing
    - Delayed healing
    - Malunion
    - Nonunion

- **Prosthesis** or presence of orthopedic joint implants **Z96.6***

Other Care Codes	
Code	**Description**
T84.6*‑T84.69XS	Infection and inflammatory reaction due to internal fixation device
T84.1*‑T84.199S	Mechanical complication of internal fixation device of bones of limb
T84*	Complications of internal orthopedic prosthetic devices, implants, and grafts
T85*	Complications of other internal prosthetic devices, implants, and grafts
Z44*	Encounter for fitting and adjustment of external prosthetic device
Z47*	Orthopedic aftercare

*Requires an additional digit to complete the diagnosis code.

Documentation and Coding:
Fractures

The 7th character indicates if the patient is receiving initial or subsequent treatment.

Closed Fracture	
7th Character	**Description**
A	Initial encounter for fracture
D	Subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
G	Subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
K	Subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
P	Subsequent encounter for fracture with malunion
S	Sequela

Open Fracture	
7th Character	**Description**
B	Initial encounter for open fracture type I or II
C	Initial encounter for open fracture type IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC
E	Subsequent encounter for open fracture type I or II with routine healing
F	Subsequent encounter for open fracture type IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC with routine healing
H	Subsequent encounter for open fracture type I or II with delayed healing
J	Subsequent encounter for open fracture type IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC with delayed healing
M	Subsequent encounter for open fracture type I or II with nonunion
N	Subsequent encounter for open fracture type IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC with nonunion
Q	Subsequent encounter for open fracture type I or II with malunion
R	Subsequent encounter for open fracture type IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC with malunion

Traumatic History Code	
ICD-10-CM	**Description**
Z87.81	Personal history of (healed) traumatic fracture

Non-Traumatic History Codes	
ICD-10-CM	**Descriptions**
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

Documentation and Coding:
Fractures

Case 1	A patient is admitted for surgical treatment of fracture malunion involving the right mandibular condyle and mandibular symphysis. He had previously undergone open reduction with internal fixation. Category S02, Fracture of skull and facial bones, does not provide a 7th character to describe subsequent encounter for fracture malunion. What is the appropriate code assignment and 7th character for a subsequent encounter due to malunion of mandibular fracture?
Rationale	Assign codes **S02.66XK**, Fracture of symphysis of mandible, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion, and **S02.611K**, Fracture of condylar process of right mandible, subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion, for the malunion of the mandibular symphysis and right mandibular condyle fractures. Since there is no specific 7th character extension describing malunion in category S02, assign **"K"** (nonunion) as the best available option. Source: *AHA Coding Clinic (Volume 8, First Quarter, 2021)*

Case 2	The patient is an 89-year-old female with known osteoporosis who fell from bed at the nursing home with resultant rib fractures. The provider was queried and confirmed that the rib fractures were due to osteoporosis due to her advanced age. How is this coded?
Rationale	Assign code **M80.0AXA**, Age-related osteoporosis with current pathological fracture, other site, initial encounter for fracture, as the principal diagnosis. In addition, assign codes **W06.XXXA**, fall from bed, initial encounter, and **Y92.122**, Bedroom in nursing home, as the place of occurrence of the external cause, to identify the external cause of injury and the location of the patient at the time of injury. Source: *AHA Coding Clinic (Volume 7, Fourth Quarter, 2020)*

Questions?

Contact us at **#Risk_Adjustments_and_clinical_Documentation@healthfirst.org**.

For additional documentation and coding guidance, please visit the Coding section at **hfproviders.org**.

References

- **ICD-10-CM Official Coding Guidelines, FY 2024**
- **CDI ICD-10-CM Documentation Tips: Gustilo Fracture Classification**
- **Coding Clinic Advisor**