Artificial Opening

At Healthfirst, we are committed to helping providers accurately document and code their patients' health records. This tip sheet is intended to assist providers and coding staff with the documentation and ICD-10-CM selection, on services submitted to Healthfirst—specifically for **Artificial Opening**. It provides information from industry sources about proper coding practice. However, this document does not represent or guarantee that Healthfirst will cover and/or pay for the 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 amount that Healthfirst or the member owes the provider.

Artificial openings are surgically created through an incision to establish a passage between internal organs and the outside of the body.

Diagnosis Codes and Descriptions

ICD-10-CM	Description
Z93.0	Tracheostomy status
Z93.1	Gastrostomy status
Z93.2	Ileostomy status
Z93.3	Colostomy status
Z93.4	Other artificial openings of gastrointestinal tract status
Z93.50	Unspecified cystostomy status
Z93.51	Cutaneous-vesicostomy status
Z93.52	Appendico-vesicostomy status

ICD-10-CM	Description
Z93.59	Other cystostomy status
Z93.6	Other artificial openings of urinary tract status
Z93.8	Other artificial opening status
Z93.9	Artificial opening status, unspecified

Coding Tips

- Presence of an artificial opening without need for care codes are assigned to (**Z93. ***) category. The codes from this category should only be reported as secondary diagnoses.
- When documentation supports attention or management of artificial openings, the appropriate code for abstract should be from (**Z43*** Encounter for attention to artificial openings), category. These are not to be used together with (**Z93**. * Artificial openings status) codes.

Documentation Recommendations

Type	Complications of External Stoma	Attention to Artificial Opening
- Gastrostomy - Tracheostomy - Duodenostomy - Enterostomy - Colostomy - Ileostomy - Ileal pouch - Kock pouch	- Complications of tracheostomy (**J95. ***) - Malfunction - Obstruction - Infection (Use additional code to identify type of infection (i.e. sepsis) - Complication of colostomy (**K94.0***) - Mechanical complication - Complications of cystostomy (**N99.5****) - Malfunction - Other complication	- Closure - Reforming - Removal of catheter - Toilet or cleansing - Passage of sounds or bougies

Coding Example

Case 1	Patient recently diagnosed with laryngeal cancer. Last week had a resection of tumor blocking his airway. Currently with tracheostomy. No complaints; here to discuss continuing chemotherapy and radiation.
Correct Code Assignment	**C32.9** Malignant neoplasm of larynx, unspecified **Z93.0** Tracheostomy status
Comments	A status code **Z93.0** Tracheostomy status should be used, along with the code to capture patient's current laryngeal cancer. When documentation does not specify aftercare, do not use **Z43.0**, Encounter for attention to tracheostomy.

Encounters For Attention To Artificial Openings

ICD-10-CM	Description
Z43.0	Encounter for attention to tracheostomy
Z43.1	Encounter for attention to gastrostomy
Z43.2	Encounter for attention to ileostomy
Z43.3	Encounter for attention to colostomy
Z43.4	Encounter for attention to other artificial openings of digestive tract
Z43.5	Encounter for attention to cystostomy
Z43.6	Encounter for attention to other artificial openings of urinary tract
Z43.8	Encounter for attention to other artificial openings
Z43.9	Encounter for attention to unspecified artificial opening

References

- **ICD-10-CM Guidelines FY25 October 1 2024**
- **Colostomy**
- **How To Manage Skin Irritation Around Your Urostomy Stoma | Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center**

Questions?

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

For additional documentation and coding guidance, please visit the coding section on **HFproviders.org**