

Osteonecrosis

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 **Osteonecrosis**. 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.

Osteonecrosis is a focal infarct of bone that may be caused by traumatic, non-traumatic (e.g., Corticosteroid use, Excessive alcohol consumption) and idiopathic. Common symptoms are pain, limitation of motion, joint collapse, and secondary osteoarthritis.

Diagnosis Codes and Descriptions

The following codes require providers to identify laterality by adding a sixth digit where "X" is located. (1= right; 2 = left; 9 = Unspecified)

	Idiopathic Aseptic	Previous Trauma	Other Secondary	Other	In Diseases Classified Elsewhere
Shoulder	M87.01X	M87.21X	M87.31X	M87.81X	M90.51X
Humerus	M87.02X	M87.22X	M87.32X	M87.82X	Upper Arm M90.52X
Radius	M87.03X M87.033-Unsp.	M87.23X M87.233-Unsp.	M87.33X M87.333-Unsp.	M87.83X M87.833-Unsp.	Forearm M90.53X

Documentation and Coding

	Idiopathic Aseptic	Previous Trauma	Other Secondary	Other	In Diseases Classified Elsewhere
Ulna	M87.034-RT M87.035-LT M87.036-Unsp.	M87.234-RT M87.235-LT M87.236-Unsp.	M87.334-RT M87.335-LT M87.336-Unsp.	M87.834-RT M87.835-LT M87.836-Unsp.	
Carpus	M87.037-RT M87.038-LT M87.039-Unsp.	M87.237-RT M87.238-LT M87.239-Unsp.	M87.337-RT M87.338-LT M87.339-Unsp.	M87.837-RT M87.838-LT M87.839-Unsp.	---
Hand	M87.04X M87.043-Unsp.	M87.24X M87.243-Unsp.	M87.34X M87.343-Unsp.	M87.84X M87.843-Unsp.	M90.54X
Finger	M87.044-RT M87.045-LT M87.046-Unsp.	M87.244-RT M87.245-LT M87.246-Unsp.	M87.344-RT M87.345-LT M87.346-Unsp.	M87.844-RT M87.845-LT M87.849-Unsp.	---
Pelvis	M87.050	M87.250	M87.350	M87.850	Thigh M90.55X
Femur	M87.05X	M87.25X M87.256-Unsp.	M87.35X M87.353-Unsp.	M87.85X	
Tibia	M87.06X M87.063-Unsp.	M87.26X M87.263-Unsp.	M87.36X M87.363-Unsp.	M87.86X M87.863-Unsp.	Lower Leg M90.56X
Fibula	M87.064-RT M87.065-LT M87.066-Unsp.	M87.264-RT M87.265-LT M87.266-Unsp.	M87.364-RT M87.365-LT M87.366-Unsp.	M87.864-RT M87.865-LT M87.869-Unsp.	
Ankle	M87.07X	M87.27X M87.273-Unsp.	M87.37X M87.373-Unsp.	M87.87X M87.873-Unsp.	M90.57X

Documentation and Coding

	Idiopathic Aseptic	Previous Trauma	Other Secondary	Other	In Diseases Classified Elsewhere
Foot	M87.074-RT M87.075-LT M87.076-Unsp.	M87.274-RT M87.275-LT M87.276-Unsp.	M87.374-RT M87.375-LT M87.376-Unsp.	M87.874-RT M87.875-LT M87.876-Unsp.	
Toe	M87.077-RT M80.078-LT M87.079-Unsp.	M87.277-RT M80.278-LT M87.279-Unsp.	M87.377-RT M80.378-LT M87.379-Unsp.	M87.877-RT M80.878-LT M87.879-Unsp.	---
Bone	M87.00-Unsp. M87.08-Other site M87.09- Multiple sites	M87.20-unsp. M87.28-Other site M87.29- Multiple sites	M87.30-Unsp. M87.38-Other site M87.39- Multiple sites	M87.80-Unsp. M87.88-Other site M87.89- Multiple sites	M90.50- Unsp. M90.58- Other site M90.59- Multiple sites
M87.9 – Osteonecrosis, unspecified (Necrosis of bone NOS)					

Coding Tips:

- Other terms for Osteonecrosis: Avascular Necrosis, Aseptic Necrosis, Ischemic Necrosis of Bone
- The affected bone may be upper or lower end, but if the portion of the bone is at the joint, please designate the site as the bone, not the joint.
- Use additional code to identify major osseous defects, if applicable (**M89.7-M89.79**) for category **M87*** - Osteonecrosis.
- Do not code osteonecrosis (**M87***) category along with juvenile osteonecrosis (**M91-M92.9**) and osteochondropathies (**M90-M93.99**)
- **M87.1*** - Osteonecrosis due to drugs is no longer risk adjusts in CMS-V28 Model. Use additional code for adverse effect, if applicable, to identify drug (**T36-T50** with fifth or sixth character 5) for **M87.1***

Documentation and Coding

Documentation Recommendations

Risk Factors	Symptoms	Diagnostic Tests	Treatment/Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corticosteroid use• Excessive alcohol intake• Sickle cell disease• Smoking• Chemotherapy, Radiation• Coagulation disorders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Collapse of the joint○ Pain• Joint-specific<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Decreased motion○ Pain, Tenderness○ a limp○ Joint effusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Radiographs• MRI Scan• CT Scan• Bone Scan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Symptomatic measures (e.g., rest, physical therapy, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs [NSAIDs])• Surgical: Core decompression• Joint replacement• Proximal femoral osteotomies• Bone grafting

Coding Example

Case 1	A 40-year-old female is admitted with aseptic osteonecrosis of the jaw resulting in severe restriction in opening her mouth and poor oral intake. Osteonecrosis was caused by oral biphosphonate that had been prescribed to treat the patient's osteoporosis . The biphosphonate had been discontinued several months ago. What are the appropriate diagnosis code assignments for the admission?
AHA Coding Clinic Rationale	Assign code M87.08 , Aseptic necrosis of bone, other site (Jaw), for the aseptic osteonecrosis. Code M81.0 , Osteoporosis, unspecified, and code T45.8X5A , Adverse effect of other primarily systemic and hematological agents (Adverse effects in therapeutic use, Oral biphosphonates), should be assigned as additional codes.

Documentation and Coding

References

- [ICD-10 Coding Guidelines](#)
- [Coding Clinic Advisor](#)
- [Osteonecrosis | Merck Manuals](#)

Questions?

Contact us at [#Risk Adjustments and clinical Documentation@healthfirst.org](mailto:#Risk_Adjustments_and_clinical_Documentation@healthfirst.org).

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

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