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Empowering Better Health

START SMART CODING TIP

Congenital Anomalies

A lifelong coding consideration – code the current clinical status

RELEVANT CODING CLINICS

Ch 17

4Q 2010

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THE CORE CONCEPT

A Lifelong Consideration

Congenital anomalies aren't limited to childhood – but documentation is key

CODES THAT CAN LAST A LIFETIME

Codes from **Chapter 17** of ICD-10-CM may be reported **throughout the patient's lifetime.**
They still apply when the congenital condition remains present, or is relevant to the care being provided.

CAUTION: "HISTORY OF"

Be careful with documentation such as **"history of."**
Most congenital anomalies are repaired completely early in life – don't assume the congenital code still applies just because it appears in the PMH.

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DOCUMENTATION IS KEY

Repaired vs. Still Present

Let the current documentation and clinical status drive the code

STILL PRESENT / NOT FULLY REPAIRED

If the anomaly remains and documentation is clear, code it as a **current congenital anomaly** – appropriate even in an adult patient.

COMPLETELY REPAIRED

Z87.74

Assign the appropriate "history of" code. A very common one: **Z87.74** – personal history of corrected congenital malformations of heart & circulatory system.

THE PRINCIPLE

Code what the current documentation and clinical status support – don't let the fact that a condition was congenital, or that it appears in the PMH, drive the code. **When in doubt, query.**

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REFERENCE

Common Pediatric Anomalies

Frequently seen congenital conditions – most fall under "Q" codes

- Atresia of pulmonary artery
- Stenosis of pulmonary artery
- Coarctation of pulmonary artery
- Congenital pulmonary AV malformation
- Congenital malformation of great arteries
- Congenital stenosis of vena cava
- Ventricular septal defect (VSD)
- Atrial septal defect (ASD)
- AV septal defect
- Tetralogy of Fallot
- Congenital pulmonary valve stenosis / insufficiency
- Other congenital malformations of pulmonary valve
- Congenital malformation of heart, unspecified
- Patent ductus arteriosus (PDA)
- Congenital renal artery stenosis
- Other congenital malformations of renal artery
- AV malformation, site unspecified or specified
- Other congenital malformations of peripheral vascular / pre-cerebral vessels

IMPORTANT GUIDELINE

Per the Chapter 17 guidelines: when a malformation, deformation, or chromosomal abnormality **does not have a unique code**, assign additional code(s) for any manifestations that are present.

CODING CLINIC · 4Q 2010

Repaired Congenital Anomaly

ICD-9-CM Coding Clinic, Fourth Quarter 2010 · Page 136 · Effective Oct 1, 2010

QUESTION

If a patient has a history of a congenital condition that has been repaired, is it still a reportable condition?

ANSWER

Z87.74

Query the provider as to whether the anomaly was partially or completely repaired. **If it is still present and not completely repaired, it is appropriate to code – even in an adult patient.** If it has been completely repaired, assign the personal-history code (ICD-9 V13.65 → ICD-10 **Z87.74**). Many congenital anomalies, though present at birth, may not manifest until later in life, and some conditions are not correctible and can persist. Chapter 17 codes may be used throughout the life of the patient. *Although this Coding Clinic uses ICD-9 codes, the underlying concept remains the same in ICD-10-CM.*