Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Western Australian Coding Rule

0318/16 Facetectomy

ACCD Coding Rule *Facetectomy* (Ref No: Q3048) was retired on 30 June 2017. In ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Tenth Edition (effective 1 July 2017) a new ACHI Alphabetic Index was created for facetectomy.

better health • better care • better value

Government of **Western Australia**
Department of Health

Western Australian Coding Rule

0516/01 Facetectomy

WA Coding Rule 0216/01 *Lumbar facetectomy* is superseded by ACCD Coding Rule *Facetectomy* (Ref No: Q3048) effective 1 July 2016; (log in to view on the ACCD CLIP portal).

DECISION

WA Coding Rule 0516/01 *Facetectomy* is retired.

[Effective 1 Oct 2016, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 9th Ed.]

better health • better care • better value

Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Western Australian Coding Rule

0216/01 Lumbar facetectomy

Q.

What is the correct code for facetectomy? The patient had radiculopathy with pain and numbness of the leg and the procedure was documented as "Facetectomy, Lumbar 4/5 medial".

A.

Facetectomy is a surgical technique performed to decompress impinged spinal nerve roots by removing one or both (commonly degenerated) facet joints on a set of vertebrae. The procedure is mostly combined with a laminectomy/laminotomy which completely/partially removes the lamina bone, and with a foraminectomy/foraminotomy, which removes abnormal structures in the foraminal canal. The procedure may also be combined with a discectomy to partially or completely remove a bulging/herniated disc. Sometimes a spinal fusion is also performed as spinal stability may be reduced with facet joint removal.

There is no Index entry for facetectomy in ACHI. The following pathway should be used:

Decompression, spinal, roots, *see Rhizolysis/spinal →*
Rhizolysis, spinal, 40330-00 [49]

40330-00[49] *Spinal rhizolysis*

In the Tabular, spinal foramenotomy and spinal rhizotomy are listed terms under the code description. This list is not exhaustive. Facetectomy is another minimally invasive procedure such as those listed. These procedures decompress the spinal nerve root and assignment of an additional code for further specificity is not necessary.

Note: The code 48639-00 [1383] *Excision of vertebra* is not appropriate for a facetectomy. This code refers to removal of the entire vertebral body. Facetectomy only removes a small part of the vertebra and is minimally invasive

DECISION

Facetectomy should be coded to 40330-00 [49] *Spinal rhizolysis.* **Any other procedures performed during the operative episode should also be coded.**

[Effective 3 Feb 2016, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 9th Ed.]

better health • better care • better value