



Western Australian Coding Rule

0516/06 Lipiodol flushing

WA Coding Rule 0216/04 *Lipiodol flushing* is superseded by ACCD Coding Rule ***Lipiodol (poppyseed oil) tubal flushing*** (Ref No: Q3050) effective 1 July 2016; (log in to view on the [ACCD CLIP portal](#)).

DECISION

WA Coding Rule 0216/04 *Lipiodol flushing* is retired.

[Effective 01 July 2016, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 9th Ed.]



Western Australian Coding Rule

0216/04 Lipiodol flushing

Q.

What procedure code should be assigned for Lipiodol flush? In this case it was performed with an endometrial scratch procedure.

A.

Lipiodol is a poppy seed oil that is used as a contrast media in various imaging studies, including hysterosalpingography. It has long been perceived that there is a possible therapeutic effect associated with diagnostic tubal patency testing. Studies found that a hysterosalpingogram using oil-based contrast media had a greater fertility-enhancing effect than water-based contrast media, especially in patients with unexplained fertility.

Lipiodol flushing via hysterosalpingogram is now used as a treatment in itself to improve fertility, for patients with unexplained or endometriosis-related infertility. It is not clear how Lipiodol flushing works to improve fertility, but some studies have suggested that it has an effect on the endometrium resulting in enhanced receptivity of the endometrium to embryo implantation.

As Lipiodol flushing is the same procedure as a hysterosalpingogram, it should be coded to 59712-00 [1982] *Hysterosalpingography*. Note that as this code is located in ACHI Chapter 20 it should not normally be coded, unless it meets the exception criteria in ACS 0042 *Procedures normally not coded* (e.g. is performed under cerebral anaesthesia).

DECISION

Lipiodol flushing of the uterus and fallopian tubes should be coded to 59712-00 [1982] *Hysterosalpingography* when it meets the criteria for coding in ACS 0042 *Procedures normally not coded*.

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