



Western Australian Coding Rule

0911/03 Recall of implant for joint replacement

Q.

Patient admitted for revision of total hip replacement as prophylaxis - the product/implant was recalled due to some other patients experiencing cobalt poisoning. Please advise the correct code assignment?

A.

There is no Australian Coding Standard that fits this scenario. If we look at the advice for removal of silicone breast implants, it is favoured to use a follow-up code as the principal diagnosis. We can also extrapolate from the standard regarding prophylactic mastectomy that the reason for the mastectomy should always be assigned as the principal even if this is 'family history' and the code Z40.00 or Z40.8 should be used as an additional diagnosis.

Removal of a THR because of the risk of cobalt poisoning is not recognised as routine prophylactic surgery unlike organ removal for risk factors related to malignant neoplasms. We can consider that this particular THR device is being removed as it is no longer the best option to treat this patient's condition and further surgery is now required. The patient has already been treated for a disease or injury but now requires follow-up care.

Considering all of the above we suggest for this scenario that the most appropriate code allocation is follow-up - orthopaedic - with removal of device = **Z47.0 *Follow-up care involving removal of fracture plate and other internal fixation device***. The prophylactic code Z40.8 may be assigned as an additional diagnosis if prophylaxis has been documented.

DECISION

The most appropriate code assignment for the recall of a THR device is:

Z47.0 *Follow-up care involving removal of fracture plate and other internal fixation device*.

The prophylactic code Z40.8 may be assigned as an additional diagnosis if prophylaxis has been documented.

[Effective 21 September 2011, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 7th Ed.]