



# Western Australian Coding Rule

## 1110/06 Caudal epidural with epidurolysis

### Q.

If epidurolysis is performed during a caudal epidural for pain management, do I need to assign separate codes for epidural and epidurolysis? i.e. code only 39140-00 [32] *Epidural injection for lysis of adhesions*, or also add 90019-00 [34] *Caudal injection of other or combined therapeutic substance(s)*?

### A.

Coding Matters vol 11 no 1 provides information about epidurolysis:

“Epidurolysis, also known as Racz procedure or epiduroplasty, is a technique performed to dissolve adhesions, scar tissue or fibrosis entrapping nerves around the epidural space. Formation of adhesions and scar tissue, a common occurrence following spinal injury or surgery, can cause chronic back pain. Epidurolysis involves insertion of a catheter, under fluoroscopic guidance, followed by a therapeutic injection containing a mixture of drugs into the epidural space. The injection typically consists of combination of local anaesthetic, steroid, x-ray contrast, enzyme hyaluronidase and salt solution”.

Following the index the only code required is 39140-00 [32]:

Catheterisation

- spinal (caudal) (epidural) (intrathecal) (subarachnoid)

-- Racz (epidural adhesiolysis) 39140-00 [32]

### DECISION

**Assign 39140-00 [32] *Epidural injection for lysis of adhesions for caudal epidural with epidurolysis.***

[Effective 17 Nov 2010, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 7<sup>th</sup> Ed.]