Assigning Codes: Musculoskeletal System and Genitourinary Systems

Musculoskeletal System

Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue are described in Chapter 13 of the Tabular List of ICD-10-CM. These include diseases of the bone, joints, and muscle. Codes range from M00 to M99. The following are the key guidelines to keep in mind when coding conditions of this system:

- Most of the codes are specific to site (location on the body), and laterality (right, left, unilateral, bilateral).
- There is an option for multiple sites when a diagnosis concerns more than one bone, muscle, or joint (for example, code M08.89 [other juvenile arthritis, multiple sites]).
- When more than one bone, joint, or muscle is involved and there is not a multiple site option or code, coders must use multiple codes to indicate the sites involved.
- Bone, joint, or muscle conditions that are healed, chronic or recurring, are also found in this chapter.

Any current, acute injury should be coded to the appropriate injury code from chapter 19.

- All stress and pathological fractures found in chapter 13 require the use of the following seventh character extensions:
  - A: Initial encounter for fracture
  - D: Subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
  - G: Subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
  - K: Subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
  - P: Subsequent encounter for fracture with malunion
  - S: Sequela

The medical record must provide the necessary specificity in the documentation to allow the coder to assign the correct seventh character extension, as this character is not optional.
A pathological (or spontaneous) fracture is a break in a bone that occurs because of bone disease or a change surrounding the bone tissue that makes the bone weak.

- The fracture is reported in addition to the disease responsible for the fracture.
- Never assign a code for a traumatic fracture and pathologic fracture of the same bone.

Genitourinary System

Diseases and conditions of the genitourinary system are described in Chapter 14. Codes range from N00 to N99. The range of codes are classified as conditions of the urinary system, breasts, and of the male and female genital tracts, except for certain genitourinary transmissible infections, neoplasms, and conditions associated with pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium.

One of the most common disorders reported with codes from this chapter are kidney stones. To locate these codes, look under “Calculus” in the Alphabetic index. Urinary stones can occur in the kidneys, ureters, bladder, and/or urethra, with each organ having their own unique code. A combination code is used for stones in the kidney and ureter.

Category N18 reports chronic kidney disease (CKD) according to stages of severity from 1 to 5.

- Stage 1: N18.1
- Stage 2: N18.2 (mild)
- Stage 3: N18.3 (moderate)
- Stage 4: N18.4 (severe)
- Stage 5: N18.5

The code N18.6 is used to report end-stage renal disease (ESRD). If both a stage and ESRD is documented, assign only the code for ESRD.