ICD-10 Radiology Guidance:
SPINE

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ICD-10 ESSENTIALS for SPINE

The following elements are essential for the proper ICD-10-CM coding of conditions found in the **Spine**:

OSTEOPOROSIS

- Type
- Underlying Cause
- Pathological Fracture Status
- Long Term Drug Therapy Status

INTERVERTEBRAL DISC DISEASE

- Type of Condition
- Location
- Myelopathy Status
- Radiculopathy Status

Common Spine Related Diagnoses	ICD-10 Specificity Guidance
Low Back Pain	• Distinguish if with Sciatica
Osteopenia	• Specify Anatomical Location • Specify Laterality
Spondylosis	• Identify Specific Region affected • Spondylitis vs. Spondylopathy vs. Spondylolisthesis • Distinguish if with Myelopathy • Distinguish if with Radiculopathy

Osteoporosis

Because osteoporosis is a systemic condition affecting all bones of the musculoskeletal system, the code is not location specific unless a pathologic fracture is present. Osteoporosis is included in the guidance for spinal conditions as it is a primary area that is evaluated and treated for this condition. There are several areas of documentation that are needed to completely report osteoporosis.

The type and underlying cause of the osteoporosis should be documented. Osteoporosis will be submitted as *age-related* if no further information is provided as it is the default option within ICD-10.

Type	Cause
Age-related	Drug-Induced
Involutional	Idiopathic
Postmenopausal	Disuse
Senile	Post Oophorectomy
Localized	Post-Traumatic

Long-Term Drug Therapy

- For many patients who have been diagnosed with osteoporosis, a drug therapy treatment plan (i.e., bisphosphonates) may be in place. ICD-10 allows for the additional reporting of this information and could be a consideration for payment with certain procedures.
- Patients who receive long-term steroid therapy are considered at a greater risk of osteoporosis. This information can also be a consideration for payment with certain procedures and is recommended to be documented when known.

Osteoporosis - is categorized as either with or without current pathological fracture.

- ICD-10 guidelines state that a fracture should be reported as *pathological* if a patient with known osteoporosis suffers a fracture from a minor fall that would not usually break a healthy bone.
- If the patient had a pathological fracture in the past but it is now healed, the condition would be submitted as *without current pathological fracture*. If this past history is known, it should be documented to allow for complete reporting of the condition.
- If a pathological fracture is present, additional elements are needed.
    - Location of the Fracture
    - Episode of Care
        - Initial Encounter
            - Patient is undergoing active treatment for the condition
        - Subsequent Encounter
            - After active treatment and the patient is receiving routine care during the healing phase
        - Sequela
            - Complications or conditions that arise as a direct result of a condition
        - There is not a “default” or “unspecified” option for episode of care.

- The coder will use the provided documentation to make a reasonable determination of the episode of care. If that determination can't be made from the documentation, the report will be returned for additional information.

Unspecified Example:	**Specified Example:**
Indication: **Osteoporosis**	Indication: **pathological fracture T11 with senile osteoporosis**
Coded as: *age-related osteoporosis without current pathological fracture*	Coded as: *age-related osteoporosis with current pathological fracture, vertebrae*

Intervertebral Disc Disease

ICD-10 allows for more detailed reporting of these conditions by providing options specific to the type of disc disease, general region of the spine affected, and identification of associated myelopathy and radiculopathy.

Type of Condition	Location	Manifestations
Displacement	Cervical	With Myelopathy
Degeneration	High-cervical	With Radiculopathy
Other (specify)	Mid-cervical	
	Cervicothoracic	
	Cervical level	
	Thoracic	
	Thoracolumbar	
	Lumbar	
	Lumbosacral	
	Sacrococcygeal	

Unspecified Example:	**Specified Example:**
Indication: **cervical disc disease**	Indication: **HNP, C6-C7, with radiculopathy**
Coded as: *cervical disc disorder, unspecified, unspecified cervical region*	Coded as: *cervical disc disorder, with radiculopathy, mid-cervical region*

Sources:

ICD-10-CM Draft Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting 2014; Cooperating Parties for the ICD-10-CM: the American Hospital Association (AHA), the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), 2013.

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CSI Navigator for Radiology Diagnosis Coding with ICD-10-CM, 2013 Edition, Coding Strategies, Inc. 2012.