



MASSACHUSETTS

FRACTURE CODING

Documentation tip

FOR VERTEBRAL FRACTURES AND EACH OF THE CODES BELOW, DOCUMENTATION MUST INDICATE INITIAL OR SUBSEQUENT ENCOUNTER.

Initial (A)

Seventh character A is assigned when patient is receiving **active treatment** for a fracture, such as surgical treatment, emergency department encounter for acute fracture treatment, and evaluation and management of acute fracture.

Subsequent (D)

Patient is receiving routine care during **recovery or healing phase** with normal healing, delayed healing, or nonunion. These include cast changes, X-rays for evaluating healing status, removal of internal or external fixation device, medication adjustment, and follow-up visits following initial fracture treatment.

Use **Sequela** to indicate complications that arise as a direct result of the fracture.



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FRACTURE CODING EXAMPLES

Vertebral fracture with no history of trauma, no diagnosis of osteoporosis or no other bone disorder

M48.5 - collapsed (fractured) vertebra, not elsewhere classified

Fatigue (stress) fracture of the vertebra

Fatigue or stress fractures are secondary to abnormal chronic repetitive forces on normal bone. Chronic repetitive stresses might occur if a patient tried to run a marathon without training properly or if a young man or woman enters boot camp.

M48.4 - fatigue fracture of vertebrae

Traumatic vertebral fracture

Traumatic fracture coding requires additional detail as to the type of fracture, anatomic region of the bone involved, stability, and traumatic spondylolisthesis.

S12. - cervical vertebral fractures

S22.0 - thoracic vertebral fractures

S32.0 - lumbar vertebral fractures

S32.1 - sacral fractures with specific reference to zone 1, zone 2 and zone 3

Pathologic (fragility or insufficiency) vertebral fractures

Fracture with normal forces (example: fall from a standing position or bending over and picking up something) on abnormal or weakened bone.

M80.08 age-related osteoporosis with current pathological fracture (if there is marrow edema or the radiologist called an acute, subacute, or healing fracture)

M80.88 other osteoporosis with current pathologic fracture (such as chronic steroid use, malabsorption, or post oophorectomy)

Pathologic vertebral fracture secondary to other causes

M84.58 neoplasm (also code underlying neoplasm)

M84.68 fracture following previous radiation therapy

M84.68 other disease (also code underlying condition if possible)