

**OFFICE OF STATEWIDE HEALTH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AND  
AMBULATORY SURGERY PATIENT DATA REPORTING MANUAL, FIFTH EDITION**

**EXTERNAL CAUSES OF MORBIDITY**

**Section 97260**

***(a) For encounters occurring on and after October 1, 2015: The external causes of morbidity shall be coded according to the ICD-10-CM External Causes of Morbidity (V00-Y99). The external cause of morbidity that resulted in the injury or health condition shall be listed first. Additional cause of morbidity codes shall be reported if necessary to describe the mechanisms that contributed to, or the causal events surrounding, the injury or health condition.***

**DISCUSSION**

Specifications for reporting this data element with the Record Entry Form for online web entry of individual records or online data file transmission for encounters occurring on and after January 1, 2019:

<b>EXTERNAL CAUSES OF MORBIDITY</b>					
ICD-10-CM CODE					
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Reporting Requirements:

- Duplicate external cause codes will not be accepted on the same data record. This is consistent with the *ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting*.
- Codes from the ICD-10-CM Codebook, Chapter 20, External Causes of Morbidity (V00—Y99) must never be reported in the Other Diagnoses code fields. Such codes must only be reported in the External Cause of Morbidity code fields.

Principal external cause code: The principal external cause code is defined as the external cause of injury or health condition which describes the mechanism that resulted in the most severe injury or health condition. If sequencing the external cause of the most severe injury as the principal external cause code is contradictory to the guidelines given in ICD-10-CM, OSHPD reporting requirements take precedence.

Other external cause codes:

- Defined as additional ICD-10-CM codes from the range V00-Y99 necessary to completely describe the mechanisms that contributed to or the causal events surrounding the injuries or health conditions.

Place of occurrence codes (category Y92) are:

- Reported to OSHPD if the principal external cause code does not specify the place of occurrence.
- Place of occurrence should be reported to OSHPD once, at the initial encounter for treatment that is reportable to OSHPD. However, if an injury occurs during treatment, an additional place of occurrence code may be reported.
- Do not report code Y92.9 per Coding Guidelines.
- Use Y92.89 only when the place of occurrence is stated but does not fit in another category.

**Activity (category Y93) and Status (category Y99) codes**

- These codes should be reported if the codes are necessary to describe the mechanisms that contributed to the injury, or the causal events surrounding the injury or health condition.

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- Activity and status codes are reported on the first incident of treatment reported to OSHPD.

### **Assignment of 7th Character**

Assignment of the 7<sup>th</sup> character for codes assigned from Chapter 19 in the ICD-10-CM codebook is based on whether the patient is undergoing active treatment and not whether the provider is seeing the patient for the first time. Initial encounter is used while the patient is receiving active treatment for the condition. Subsequent encounter is used for care received in the healing or recovery phase.

Assignment of the 7<sup>th</sup> character identifying initial (“A”), subsequent (“D”), or sequela (“S”) encounter for external cause should match the 7<sup>th</sup> character of the code assigned for the associated injury or condition.

Please refer to the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting for further clarification (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd/icd10cm.htm>).

### **Example**

#### Treated in ED and Transferred:

If the patient was first diagnosed and treated in the ED of Hospital A and then transferred to the ED of Hospital B, both Hospital A & B would report the external cause code as an initial encounter.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Domestic Violence, Abuse, and Neglect using Diagnosis and External Cause Codes**

Domestic violence, abuse, and neglect are considered to be underreported and underdiagnosed. Community awareness of these circumstances is growing and there is a need for data collection on its incidence. Using this data, the healthcare communities can then develop solutions in helping both the victims and the perpetrators.

If the incident of domestic violence, abuse, or neglect is documented in the patient record as confirmed (74.-) then an appropriate code from the external cause assault section (X92—Y08) should be added to identify the cause of any physical injuries. A perpetrator code (Y07) should be added when the perpetrator of the abuse is known.