



Western Australian Coding Rule

0615/08 Interpretation of ACS 0020 Bilateral/multiple procedures for bilateral insertion of ureteric stents

WA Coding Rule 0814/04 *Insertion bilateral ureteric stents* is superseded by ACCD Coding Rule **Interpretation of ACS 0020 Bilateral/multiple procedures for bilateral insertion of ureteric stents** (Ref No: Q2933) effective 1 July 2015; (log in to view on the [ACCD CLIP portal](#)).

DECISION

WA Coding Rule 0814/04 *Insertion bilateral ureteric stents* is retired.

[Effective 1 Jul 2015, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 9th Ed.]



Western Australian Coding Rule

0814/04 Insertion bilateral ureteric stents

Q.

How do you apply ACS 0020 *Bilateral/multiple procedures* when coding bilateral insertion of ureteric stents?

Is the procedure coded once or twice?

A.

Bilateral insertion of ureteric stents is coded according to the instructions in the *Bilateral Procedures* section of ACS 0020 *Bilateral/multiple procedures*. This procedure meets the definition of a bilateral procedure, i.e. it involves “the same organ/structure on different sides of the body at the same operative episode.” It is coded as per the third point under *Bilateral Procedures (Procedures with no code option for bilateral)*: “Where no single code is provided for the bilateral procedure, assign the code twice.”

Some examples listed under the *Multiple Procedures* section, point 2, may confuse coders when applying ACS 0020 to the coding of bilateral ureteric stent insertion:

For “embolisation involving multiple vessels (e.g. left and right uterine arteries),” coders are instructed to assign one procedure code. However, embolisation of left and right uterine arteries meets the definition of a bilateral procedure according to the definition under *Bilateral Procedures*. This raises the question of whether this particular example is appropriately listed under *Multiple Procedures*.

These other examples listed under *Multiple Procedures*, point 2, may meet the definition of a bilateral procedure as well: “laparoscopic aspiration of ovarian cysts; and intranasal removal of polyps from maxillary antrum”.

Furthermore, the terminology “non-bilateral site” is used in point 4, but not in point 2, which seems inconsistent.

Given these “over-lapping” examples and inconsistent use of terminology, it is not entirely clear which section of ACS 0020 the coder should be following to code bilateral ureteric stent insertion: *Bilateral Procedures* or *Multiple Procedures*? There should be clear distinction between *Bilateral* and *Multiple Procedures*, enabling the coder to easily decide which section of ACS 0020 to follow.

Coding Matters, September 2002, Volume 9 (2) (pg. 16) instructs: “if an endoscopic bilateral ureteric stent is performed this would be coded twice as there is no available ‘bilateral’ procedure code.”

DECISION

This query has been forwarded to the ACCD for clarification on the intended interpretation of ACS 0020 *Bilateral/multiple procedures*. In the interim, assign the relevant procedure code for insertion of ureteric stents twice, when stents are inserted into the left and right ureter at the same operative episode.

[Effective 20 August 2014, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 8th Ed.]

RETIRED