

Molina Healthcare Coding Education New Guidelines – Pathologic Vertebral Fracture



Coding rules for pathologic vertebral fracture have recently changed. Again!

It is appropriate to diagnose pathologic vertebral fx when:

- First diagnosed – no matter when it occurred
- The patient is on medication for the pain due to the pathologic fracture
- No longer can code when patient is simply on medication for the underlying condition (e.g. Fosamax, etc.)

Remember the STAR quality measure requirements!

For a **newly** diagnosed pathologic fracture, a DEXA scan or medication must be initiated within 6 months of diagnosis.

Documentation Examples:

Note must clearly link compression fracture and medication!

Initial Dx:

- **Assessment:** New finding of T12 compression fracture in patient with osteoporosis.

➤ ICD-10 Code: M80.88XA

Plan: Asymptomatic, continue Fosamax

Established Dx:

- **Assessment:** Vertebral compression fracture d/t osteoporosis.

Plan: Requires pain meds episodically, continue tyl. #3 prn.

Not on pain meds:

Aftercare of pathologic vertebral fracture

Assessment: Established path vertebral fx

➤ **ICD-10 Code:** M80.88XD

Plan: Asymptomatic, continue Fosamax

Have Questions?

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