



OPHTHALMOLOGY CODING EXAMPLES

1. This 40-year-old woman presents to her physician with bilateral eye pain. Her condition is diagnosed as nonulcerative bilateral blepharitis of the upper eyelids. What is the correct diagnosis coding for this case?

Answer:

H01.001 Blepharitis (angularis) (ciliaris) (eyelid) (marginal) (nonulcerative), right, upper

H01.004 Blepharitis (angularis) (ciliaris) (eyelid) (marginal) (nonulcerative), left, upper

Rationale:

Blepharitis is an inflammation of the eyelash follicles along the edge of the eyelid. In ICD-10-CM, blepharitis is subdivided between right and left eyes and also upper and lower eyelids.

2. Code the following diagnosis: Recurrent pterygium, bilateral

Answer:

H11.063 Pterygium (eye), recurrent. See Tabular for correct code assignment.

Rationale:

Pterygium is a non-cancerous growth of the clear, thin tissue that lies over the conjunctiva. No treatment is required unless the pterygium begins to block vision. ICD-10-CM provides codes to identify pterygium of the left, right, or bilateral eyes.

3. This elderly woman is seen in the clinic for follow-up of her age-related nuclear cataract. At this time, it is only in her left eye. Code the correct diagnosis for this case.

Answer:

H25.12 Cataract (cortical) (immature) (incipient), age-related – see Cataract, senile, nuclear (sclerosis)

Rationale:

With a diagnosis of age-related cataract, ICD-10-CM directs the coder to “senile cataract,” which is further specified by right, left, or bilateral.

4. This is a visit for this patient with moderate primary open-angle glaucoma of the left eye. What is the correct diagnosis code for this case?

Answer:

H40.11X2 Glaucoma, open angle, primary. See Tabular for complete code assignment.

Rationale:

Review of the tabular at code H40.11 indicates the need for a seventh character to designate the stage of the glaucoma. Primary open-angle glaucoma is characterized by visual field abnormalities and intraocular pressure that is too high for the continued health of the eye. In this case, ICD-10-CM does not have separate codes to identify specific eyes.

5. This patient presents to his physician with continued eye problems following cataract surgery. Ultimately, this is diagnosed as bullous keratopathy, left eye, due to cataract surgery. What is the correct diagnosis code(s)?

Answer:

H59.012 Keratopathy, bullous (aphakic), following cataract surgery

Rationale:

Bullous keratopathy, or corneal edema, is often sequelae of cataract extraction. In ICD-10-CM, codes for both keratopathy and keratopathy due to cataract surgery are provided. These codes are further subdivided by laterality.

6. This elderly woman was being treated for her right eye age-related cortical cataract at this day-surgery center. After the procedure was completed, the patient suffered a postoperative hemorrhage of the eye. This was addressed by the surgeon. What is the correct diagnosis code(s)?

Answer:

H25.011 Cataract (cortical) (immature) (incipient), age-related, see Cataract, senile, cortical

H59.311 Hemorrhage, postoperative, see Complications, postprocedural, hemorrhage, by site Complication(s) (from) (of), postprocedural, hemorrhage (hematoma) (of), eye and adnexa, following ophthalmic procedure

Y92.530 Index to External Causes, Place of occurrence, outpatient surgery center

Rationale:

Complication codes in ICD-10-CM are differentiated between intraoperative and postoperative. In this case, the primary diagnosis is the cataract and the postoperative complication is listed as a secondary diagnosis. A place of occurrence code can be added to indicate that this occurred in a day surgery center. This code includes an outpatient surgery center connected with a hospital. Per Coding Guideline I.C.19.g.4, an external cause of injury code is not required as the complication code has the external cause included in the code.