Getting Started with ICD-10-PCS, Part 1

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Learning Objectives

• At the conclusion of this program, you will be able to:
  – Describe the system design for ICD-10-PCS
  – Explain how to build a code using the index and tables
  – Identify the root operations in the first four root operation groups
  – Identify the common feature within each of the first four root operation groups
Code Structure

![Diagram of code structure with sections, root operation, approach, and qualifier]

System Structure - 16 Sections

- Medical and Surgical
- Obstetrics
- Placement
- Administration
- Measurement and Monitoring
- Extracorporeal Assistance and Performance
- Extracorporeal Therapies
- Osteopathic
- Other Procedures
- Chiropractic
- Imaging
- Nuclear Medicine
- Radiation Oncology
- Physical Rehabilitation and Diagnostic Audiology
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse Treatment

A Valued Voice
ICD-10-PCS Index

• Provides the first three or four characters of the code
• Refers the coder to the correct code table
• The code tables must always be used to obtain the complete code
• No eponyms are included

Index Conventions

• Main index term is a:
  – Root operation – Destruction
  – Root procedure type – Fluoroscopy
  – Common procedure name – Peritoneal dialysis
• Secondary entries are specific to the main term
  – Body system
  – Body part
  – Device
ICD-10-PCS Tables

Each table contains four columns and a varying numbers of rows

Column: Specifies the allowable values for characters 4 through 7

Row: Specifies the valid combinations of values

Index by Root Operation, then Body Part

“Biopsy of left lobe of liver, open”
Open excision of left lobe of liver (biopsy) = 0FB20ZX

Section – Character 1

- Defines the general type of procedure

- In the Medical and Surgical Section, the first character is always the number “0”
Body System – Character 2

- Uses generally accepted anatomical or physiological categories

- Some traditional categories are subdivided into several body systems.

  Cardiovascular is subdivided into five body systems:

  - Heart and Great Vessels
  - Upper Arteries
  - Lower Arteries
  - Upper Veins
  - Lower Veins

Body Systems

- Central Nervous
- Peripheral Nervous
- Heart and Great Vessels
- Upper Arteries
- Lower Arteries
- Upper Veins
- Lower Veins
- Lymphatic and Hemic
- Eye
- Ear, Nose, Sinus
- Respiratory
- Mouth and Throat
- Gastrointestinal
- Hepatobiliary and Pancreas
- Endocrine
- Skin and Breast

- Subcutaneous Tissue and Fascia
- Muscles
- Tendons
- Bursae and Ligaments
- Head and Facial Bones
- Upper Bones
- Lower Bones
- Upper Joints
- Lower Joints
- Urinary
- Female Reproductive
- Male Reproductive
- Anatomical Regions, General
- Anatomical Regions, Upper Extremities
- Anatomical Regions, Lower Extremities
Root Operation – Character 3

- Defines the objective of the procedure
- 31 root operation values in Medical and Surgical
  - Each root operation identifies a precise and distinct objective
- Composite terms (e.g., colonoscopy, sigmoidectomy) are not root operations

Root Operation Principles

- The root operation is based on the objective of the procedure
- If multiple procedures as defined by distinct objectives are performed, then multiple codes are assigned
- Root operation and approach are consistent across the section
Root Operations

- Alteration
- Bypass
- Change
- Control
- Creation
- Destruction
- Detachment
- Dilation
- Division
- Drainage
- Excision
- Extirpation
- Extraction
- Fragmentation
- Fusion
- Insertion
- Inspection
- Map
- Occlusion
- Reattachment

- Release
- Removal
- Repair
- Replacement
- Reposition
- Resection
- Restriction
- Revision
- Supplement
- Transfer
- Transplantation

A Valued Voice

- Physician documentation
  - Doesn’t use all of these terms
  - Doesn’t use them in the same way
- It’s the coder’s responsibility is to learn and apply the terms
- NOT the coder’s responsibility to MAKE the physicians use these terms in their documentation
What if we don’t know??

Physician says: I performed a cerclage.

• The Index may direct you to the root operation,
• Index says: See Restriction
• If no help, resources can be consulted to determine the meaning

Body Part – Character 4

• Defines the specific anatomical site where the procedure is performed

• 34 possible body part values in each body system
  24 usable letters (no I or O) and 10 numbers
Index by Body Part?

- Medial meniscus
  - *Use Joint, Knee, Right*
  - *Use Joint, Knee, Left*

- It means that PCS refers to the medial meniscus as the Joint, Knee, right or left
Approach – Character 5

- Defines the technique used to reach the site of the procedure
- 7 different approach values:
  - Open
  - Percutaneous
  - Percutaneous Endoscopic
  - Via Natural or Artificial Opening
  - Via Natural or Artificial Opening Endoscopic
  - Via Natural or Artificial Opening with percutaneous endoscopic assistance
  - External

Device – Character 6

- The term “device” includes only devices that remain after the procedure is completed
- Instruments that describe how a procedure is performed are not specified in the device character
  - Instruments for visualization are specified in the approach character
- Materials incidental to a procedure such as clips and sutures are not considered devices
### Device, Substance, Equipment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Procedural Objective</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Removability</th>
<th>Example</th>
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<td>Device</td>
<td>Material or appliance central to accomplishing a procedure</td>
<td>At the site of the procedure and not intended to change location</td>
<td>Capable of being removed from procedure site</td>
<td>Neurostimulator lead insertion</td>
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<td>Substance</td>
<td>Liquid or blood components central to accomplishing a procedure</td>
<td>No fixed position, intended to be dispersed or absorbed</td>
<td>Not removable once dispersed or absorbed</td>
<td>Antibiotic injection</td>
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<td>Equipment</td>
<td>Machinery or other aid to perform a procedure</td>
<td>Resides primarily outside the body</td>
<td>Temporary, used for duration of procedure only</td>
<td>Mechanical ventilation</td>
</tr>
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**Device Types**

- **Grafts and prostheses**
  - Biological or synthetic material that takes the place of all or a portion of a body part
    - Hip prosthesis
    - Skin graft to replace lost skin
    - Coronary artery bypass graft
Coronary Artery Bypass Grafts

Device Types

- **Implants**
  - Therapeutic material that is not absorbed, eliminated or incorporates into the body
    - Fracture pins
    - Pessary
    - Internal fixation device

Internal Fixation Device

Device Types

• Simple or mechanical appliances
  – Assists or prevents a physiological function
    • Tracheostomy device
    • Artificial Sphincter
    • Intraluminal device, drug-eluting
Intraluminal Device

Device Types

• Electronic appliances
  – Assists, takes the place of, monitors or prevents a physiological function
    • Cochlear implant
    • Neurostimulator
    • Pacemaker
Qualifier – Character 7

- Defines an additional attribute of the procedure performed, if applicable
- May have a narrow application, to a specific root operation, body system, or body part
- Examples:
  - Type of transplant
  - Second site for a bypass
  - Diagnostic excision (biopsy)
Nine Root Operation Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Root operations that take out some or all of a body part</th>
<th>Root operations that take out solids, fluids, or gases from a body part</th>
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<tr>
<td>Root operations that involve cutting or separation only</td>
<td>Root operation that put in, put back, or move some or all of a body part</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**A Valued Voice**

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Nine Root Operation Groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Root operations that alter the diameter or route of a tubular body part</th>
<th>Root operations that always involve a device</th>
<th>Root operations that involve examination only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Root operations that define other repairs</td>
<td>Root operations that define other objectives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

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**A Valued Voice**

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Excision (B)

Definition: Cutting out or off, without replacement, A PORTION OF a body part

Uses sharp instrument such as scalpel, wire, scissors, bone saw, electrocautery tip

Explanation:

The qualifier *Diagnostic* is used to identify excision procedures that are biopsies.

Examples:
- Sigmoid polypectomy
- Renal biopsy
Resection (T)

Definition: Cutting out or off, without replacement, ALL of a body part

Examples:

- Total nephrectomy
- Total lobectomy of lung

Note: Lobes of the lung are the complete body part. Body part is not always the same as entire organ.

Example 1

- Sigmoidoscopy with sigmoid polypectomy (does not state whether this is diagnostic)
- Index entry for polypectomy, gastrointestinal says:
  - see Excision, Gastrointestinal system 0DB
- Can go directly to the table
Sigmoidoscopy with sigmoid polypectomy = 0DBN8ZZ

**Destruction (5)**

**Definition:**
Physical eradication of all or a portion of a body part by the direct use of energy, force or a destructive agent.

**Examples:**
- Fulguration of rectal polyp
- Cautery of skin lesion
- Cryocauteriy of lesion

**Note:** None of the body part is physically taken out. There is no tissue to be sent for pathology because the tissue is destroyed.
Extraction (D)

• Definition: Pulling or stripping out or off all or a portion of a body part by the use of force

• Explanation: The qualifier *Diagnostic* is used to identify extraction procedures that are biopsies

**Classic examples:**
- Tooth extraction
- Dilation and curettage
- Vein stripping

**More challenging examples:**
- Bone marrow or endometrial biopsy
- Removal of intraocular lens without replacement by implant
- Non-excisional debridement of skin
Detachment (6)

• Definition: Cutting off all or part of the upper or lower extremities

• Explanation: The body part value is the site of the detachment, with a qualifier, if applicable, to further specify the level where the extremity was detached

Classic examples:
– Below knee amputation
– Disarticulation of shoulder

More challenging examples:
– DIP joint amputation of right thumb
– Mid-shaft amputation, left humerus
Detachment (6)

• Level of detachment:
  – Low: Along the distal phalanx or the distal portion of the shaft of a long bone
  
  – Mid: Along the middle portion of the phalanx, at the interphalangeal joint or mid-shaft on a long bone
  
  – High: Along the proximal portion of the phalanx or proximal part of the shaft of a long bone

Detachment (6)

• Partial or Complete Detachment
  – Partial: Detachment anywhere along the shaft or head of a metacarpal or metatarsal
  
  – Complete: Detachment through the metacarpocarpal joint of the hand or metatarsal-tarsal joint of the foot
Let’s Code – Poll Question

• Removal of left lower lung lobe via incision

• Root Operation?
  1. Excision
  2. Resection
  3. Extraction
• Removal of left lower lung lobe via incision
• Root Operation?
• Resection

Answer: 0BTJ0ZZ
“Gunk” Group

Root operations that take out solids/liquids/gases from a body part

Drainage (9)

Definition: Taking or letting out fluids and/or gases from a body part

Explanation: The qualifier *Diagnostic* is used to identify drainage procedures that are biopsies

Examples:
- Thoracentesis
- Incision and drainage
- Percutaneous drainage of ascites
Extirpation (C)

**Definition:**
Taking or cutting out solid matter from a body part

**Explanation:**
The solid matter may be an abnormal byproduct of a biological function or a foreign body. The solid matter may or may not have been previously broken into pieces. No appreciable amount of the body part is taken out.

**Examples:**
- Thrombectomy
- Choledocholithotomy

Fragmentation (F)

- **Definition:** Breaking solid matter in a body part into pieces
- **Explanation:** Physical force (e.g., manual, ultrasonic) applied directly or indirectly through intervening body parts is used to break the solid matter into pieces. The pieces of solid matter are not taken out, but are eliminated or absorbed through normal biological functions
Fragmentation (F)

• Classic examples:
  – Extracorporeal shockwave lithotripsy or Transurethral lithotripsy

• More challenging examples:
  – Thoracotomy with crushing of pericardial calcifications
  – Hysteroscopy with intraluminal lithotripsy of left fallopian tube calcification

Example 2

Incision and Removal of Left Lacrimal Duct Stone
Incision and Removal of Left Lacrimal Duct Stone = **08CY0ZZ**

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**Which Root Is It?**

- Lithotripsy of a large stone in the left ureter with ureteroscopic removal of small pieces

1. Drainage
2. Extirpation
3. Fragmentation
4. Fragmentation and Extirpation
The answer is .....

2. Extirpation

The stone was too large to pass through the ureter. Fragmentation was performed using lithotripsy to break the stone into pieces. But, the ultimate goal was to remove the pieces with the ureteroscope (Extirpation).
Division (8)

• Definition: Cutting into a body part without draining fluids and/or gases from the body part in order to separate or transect a body part

• Explanation: All or a portion of the body part is separated into two or more portions

Division (8)

• Classic examples:
  – Spinal cordotomy
  – Episiotomy

• More challenging examples:
  – Achilles tendon lengthening
  – Facet rhizotomy for pain control
Release (N)

• Definition: Freeing a body part from an abnormal physical constraint by cutting or by use of force

• Explanation: Some of the restraining tissue may be taken out but none of the body part is taken out

Release cuts or removes the structure holding the body part, not the body part itself

Classic examples:
  – Adhesiolysis
  – Carpal tunnel release (of medial nerve)

More challenging examples:
  – Excision of contracture
  – Freeing of abdominal adhesions
  – Frenulotomy
Which Root is it?

• Tenovaginotomy for triggering, right index finger
  1. Division
  2. Excision
  3. Release
  4. Resection

The answer is ....

3. Release

The tenovaginotomy is the incision of the tendon sheath but the intent of the operation is to free the flexor tendon, not just to divide the tendon sheath.
Let’s Code – Poll Question

• Fasciotomy to free median nerve release
• Root Operation?
  1. Excision
  2. Division
  3. Release

Release continued

Nerve
Abdominal Sympathetic 01NM
Abducens 00NL
Accessory 00NR
Acoustic 00NN
Brachial Plexus 01N3
Cervical 01N1
Cervical Plexus 01N0
Facial 00NM
Femoral 01ND
Glossopharyngeal 00NP
Head and Neck Sympathetic 01NK
Hypoglossal 00NS
Lumbar 01NB
Lumbar Plexus 01N9
Lumbar Sympathetic 01NN
Lumbosacral Plexus 01NA
Median 01N5
Oculomotor 00NH
What's the common name for this?

Answer: 01N50ZZ
“Moving” Group

Transplantation (Y)

- Definition: Putting in or on all or a portion of a living body part taken from another individual or animal to physically take the place and/or function of all or a portion of a similar body part
- Explanation: The native body part may or may not be taken out, and the transplanted body part may take over all or a portion of its function
Transplantation (Y)

- Classic examples:
  - Kidney transplant, heart transplant
- Other examples:
  - Thymus transplant, stomach transplant

Transplantation limited to the organs of:
- Esophagus
- Heart
- Intestine
- Kidney
- Liver
- Lung
- Ovary
- Pancreas
- Products of Conception
- Spleen
- Stomach
- Thymus

A Valued Voice
Reattachment (M)

- Definition: Putting back in or on all or a portion of a separated body part to its normal location or other suitable location
- Explanation: Vascular circulation and nervous pathways may or may not be reestablished
- Classic examples:
  - Reattachment of hand or reattachment of avulsed kidney
- More challenging examples:
  - Replantation of avulsed teeth

Transfer (X)

- Definition: Moving, without taking out, all or a portion of a body part to another location to take over the function of all or a portion of a body part
- Explanation: The body part transferred remains connected to its vascular and nervous supply
Transfer (X)

• Classic examples:
  – Tendon transfer, skin pedicle flap transfer

• More challenging examples:
  – Transverse rectus abdominus muscle (TRAM) flap for breast reconstruction
  – Myocutaneous flap closure of an open wound

Transfer (X)

• Code based on:
  – The body part being transferred

• If a flap, code based on:
  – The lowest body layer being transferred
Reposition (S)

• Definition: Moving to its normal location or other suitable location all or a portion of a body part
• Explanation: The body part is moved to a new location from an abnormal location, or from a normal location where it is not functioning correctly. The body part may or may not be cut out or off to be moved to the new location

Reposition (S)

• Classic examples:
  – Reposition of undescended testicle
  – Fracture reduction
• More challenging examples:
  – Vaginal suspension to uterosacral ligament
  – Biceps tenodesis
Let’s Code – Poll Question

- Fracture reduction, left tarsal with plate and screw fixation
- Root Operation?
  1. Reattachment
  2. Transfer
  3. Reposition

- Fracture reduction, left tarsal with plate and screw fixation
- Root Operation?
- Reposition
Which row it is?

Answer: 0QSM04Z
Summary

• Learned the system design concepts and how to use the index and tables
• Toured the first four groups of root operations
• Next step is Getting Started, Part 2:
  – Remainder of the root operations
  – Additional sections of ICD-10-PCS

Questions?
Thank you!

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