

## Orthopedic Coding Alert

### Reader Question: Keep These Codes Handy to Avoid ICD-10 Pain in the Neck

**Question:** When a patient reports to the orthopedist complaining of neck pain, what is the correct ICD-10 code for the patient?

Georgia Subscriber

**Answer:** If the provider arrives at no more specific diagnosis than neck pain, then you should report M54.2 (Cervicalgia) for most diagnoses of neck pain.

**Exception:** If the neck pain is related to cervical disc disorder, then you might choose one of the following codes, depending on encounter specifics:

- M50.0- - Cervical disc disorder with myelopathy
- M50.1- - Cervical disc disorder with radiculopathy
- M50.2- - Other cervical disc displacement
- M50.3- - Other cervical disc degeneration
- M50.8- - Other cervical disc disorders
- M50.9- - Cervical disc disorder, unspecified.