

Outpatient Facility Coding Alert

You Be the Coder: Choose a Diagnosis for Postoperative Swelling

Question: I cannot locate "post-operative swelling" under the status choices for postoperative diagnoses? Can you please help me locate the correct?

New Hampshire Subscriber

Answer: Pain and swelling are both component signs of inflammation and infection. Because of that, ICD-9-CM code 998.89 (Postoperative infection; other specified complications of procedures) probably is the most accurate code to report.