

Interventional Radiology Coding Case Studies

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Week of August 27, 2018

Abscessogram & Change of Drainage Catheter

PROCEDURES:

1. Change of abscess drainage catheter, right upper quadrant.
2. Injection of left upper quadrant abscess catheter.

HISTORY: Pancreatic necrosis. Please exchange right upper quadrant sump drain for red rubber style drain. Please assess left upper quadrant abscess site.

TECHNIQUE: The procedure was discussed with the patient. Questions were answered and consent obtained.

The sump drainage catheter in the right hemi abdomen was prepped and draped in a standard fashion. The entry site was anesthetized with 1 % Lidocaine. A small amount of contrast material was injected to assess the cavity. A small linear focus of contrast extends towards the right L2 paravertebral margin. This could represent a channel towards the pancreatic head. The existing sump drain was removed over a wire. A modified 28 French red rubber style catheter was placed over the wire and positioned in the tract. The catheter was secured at the skin surface with 2.0 Ethilon sutures. The catheter was placed to gravity drainage. A standard dressing was applied.

The pigtail drain in the left upper quadrant was injected using aseptic technique. A connection between the left upper quadrant cavity and the tail of the pancreas is noted. More central drainage of contrast through the presumed pancreatic duct is not seen.

IMPRESSION:

Successful exchange of right upper quadrant sump drainage catheter for new right rubber style drain. The left upper quadrant collection represents a controlled pancreatico-cutaneous fistula. The ducts seen in the left upper quadrant are isolated and do not drain centrally.

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CPT Codes

Week of August 27, 2018

Abscessogram & Change of Drainage Catheter

Procedure Codes:

- 49423 Exchange of right upper quadrant drainage catheter
- 75984 Exchange of right upper quadrant drainage catheter RS&I
- 49424-59 Drainage catheter check, left upper quadrant
- 76080-59 Drainage catheter check, left upper quadrant RS&I

Diagnosis Codes:

- K86.89 Pancreatic necrosis/pancreatico-cutaneous fistula

Comments:

- Codes 49423/75984 are assigned for the exchange of the right upper quadrant drainage catheter.
- Codes 49424/76080 are assigned for drainage catheter check of the left upper quadrant. Modifier -59 is needed, because a catheter check is bundled with an exchange, however the exchange was performed of a separate and distinct catheter, therefore both sets of codes may be assigned.
- Contrast type and amount is not noted.
- *Supplies are billed by the facility performing the procedure and should not be assigned for professional fee coding.*

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Applicable Coding Rules:

Drainage Catheter Maintenance

- When a previously placed drainage catheter is replaced with a new catheter under imaging guidance, codes 49423 and 75984 are reported for the catheter exchange. Note code 49423 has the separate procedure designation.
 - ❖ When the separate procedure designation is noted in CPT®, this tells the coder not to assign that CPT® code in addition to the code that describes the total procedure. The codes designated as separate procedures are reported only when the service described by the code is carried out independent of the main procedure or unrelated to the main procedure.
- Contrast evaluation (catheter check) of a drainage catheter is reported with codes 49424 and 76080. Note code 49424 also has the separate procedure designation; therefore it is not coded with a placement or exchange procedure.
- If a catheter has been pulled out and the existing tract is evaluated via contrast injection, report codes 20501 and 76080 when the decision to not place a new catheter in the tract is made.

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