

CDI ICD-10-CM Documentation Tips: Gustilo Fracture Classification

- Chapter 19, “Injury, Poisoning, and Certain Other Consequences of External Causes (S00-T99).” Fracture codes have much greater specificity than in ICD-9-CM and require the level of the encounter be identified.
- During the coding process assign the level of encounter using one of the following seventh characters for applicable fracture codes:
 - A = Initial encounter for closed fracture
 - B = Initial encounter for open fracture
 - D = Subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing
 - G = Subsequent encounter for fracture with delayed healing
 - K = Subsequent encounter for fracture with nonunion
 - P = Subsequent encounter for fracture with malunion
 - S = Sequela

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- The seventh (7th) character in some fractures will identify the type of open fracture using the Gustilo Fracture Classification.
- Categories S52, S72, and S82 are impacted by the Gustilo Fracture Classification
- During the coding process assign the code to capture the type of open fracture using the appropriate seventh character (categories S52, S72, S82):
 - B = Initial encounter for open fracture type I or II
 - C = Initial encounter for open fracture type IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC
 - E = Subsequent encounter for open fracture type I or II with routine healing
 - F = Subsequent encounter for open fracture type IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC with routine healing
 - H = Subsequent encounter for open fracture type I or II with delayed healing
 - J = Subsequent encounter for open fracture type IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC with delayed healing
 - M = Subsequent encounter for open fracture type I or II with nonunion
 - N = Subsequent encounter for open fracture type IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC with nonunion
 - Q = Subsequent encounter for open fracture type I or II with malunion
 - R = Subsequent encounter for open fracture type IIIA, IIIB, or IIIC with malunion