



Western Australian Coding Rule

0511/04 Failed epidural, re-sited

Q.

If an epidural does not provide adequate analgesia or anaesthesia and is re-sited, or converted to General Anaesthetic, should we assign a complication code to reflect documented “failed epidural?”

A.

Re-siting an epidural, or converting to GA, should not be coded as a complication. It is regarded as change of treatment. Another example is infection not responding to an antibiotic, with change to a different type of antibiotic.

DECISION

Re-siting an epidural, or converting to GA, should not be coded as a complication.

[Effective 18 May 2011, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 7th Ed.]