



# Western Australian Coding Rule

## 0725/56 Musculoskeletal limb pain

### Q.

Is the documented statement 'musculoskeletal pain in limbs' coded as muscle pain and/or joint pain of the affected limbs?

### A.

The non-specific documentation 'musculoskeletal pain in limbs' should not be classified as muscle pain and/or joint pain. If no further clarification is available, assign M79.6- *Pain in limb* via Alphabetic index:

### Pain

- limb (lower) (upper) (see also *Syndrome/pain*) M79.6-

### DECISION

Assign the appropriate code(s) from M79.6 *Pain in limb* for the affected limb(s), to classify 'musculoskeletal pain in limb' without further specification.

**This WA Coding Rule 0725/56 *Musculoskeletal limb pain* supersedes WA Coding Rule 0709/08 *Musculoskeletal limb pain*.**

This Rule has been modified to improve clarity

Effective 1 July 2025, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 13<sup>th</sup> Ed.

As per the Patient Activity Data Policy (MP 0164/21) Western Australian Coding Rules must be followed.



# Western Australian Coding Rule

## 0709/08 Musculoskeletal limb pain

**Q.**

Principal Diagnosis of Musculoskeletal Pain in limbs: Are codes assigned for pain in joint and myalgia or code to pain in joint only?

**A.**

In the query, musculoskeletal pain in limb has been documented, but code suggestion is for pain in joint. The codes for this scenario would be M79.62 *Pain in limb, upper arm* and M25.52 *Pain in a joint, upper arm*.

Following the Alphabetic index:

Pain  
- limb (lower) (upper)

There is no Index entry to further classify the pain such as is with musculoskeletal chest pain i.e. other chest pain. Note a code for myalgia is not assigned for musculoskeletal chest pain.

The documentation of musculoskeletal does not suggest myalgia, as this is muscle pain alone and is not documented.

### DECISION

**Code M79.6x *Pain in limb* should be coded with the site of the pain assigned as the fifth digit for documentation of musculoskeletal pain in limbs.**

[Effective 07 Jul 2011, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 7<sup>th</sup> Ed.]