



# Western Australian Coding Rule

## 0426/01 External cause, place of occurrence and activity

### Q.

There is a long-standing practice in Western Australia for **each** individual external cause code to be followed by a place of occurrence and activity code. Could this instruction be formalised?

### A.

There are Hospital Morbidity Data Collection (HMDC) system requirements mandating:

1. A place of occurrence and activity code is to be assigned for **each individual** external cause code.

In some instances, this requirement results in duplication of place of occurrence and activity codes even when a **single** place of occurrence and activity is being classified (see Examples 2 and 4 below). Duplication of external cause, place of occurrence and activity codes is compliant with *Conventions used in the ICD-10-AM Tabular List / 5. Double coding.*

Note: double coding and clustering has not yet been implemented in Western Australia, see: [WA Clinical Coding Authority Circular No. 1 \(16052025\) Cluster coding and Diagnosis Cluster Identifier \(DCID\) in WA for 2025-26](#)

2. An activity code is to be assigned for every external cause code (V00-Y89).

Nationally, an activity code is only assigned for external causes from range V00-Y34. See also: WA Coding Rule 0426/02 *Activity (U50-U73) codes.*

The following Examples of external cause coding demonstrate when re-sequencing of external cause codes and duplication of place of occurrence and activity codes is required to meet HMDC system requirements.



### Example 1: Single event - one diagnosis with one external cause

Admission for right hemicolectomy for Crohn's disease of colon. Postoperatively, patient developed ileus due to hemicolectomy.					
National			Western Australia		
(2)	K50.1	Crohn's disease of large intestine	(2)	K50.1	Crohn's disease of large intestine
(1)	T81.87	Digestive system complications due to a procedure, NEC	(1)	T81.87	Digestive system complications due to a procedure, NEC
(1)	K56.7	Ileus, unspecified	(1)	K56.7	Ileus, unspecified
(1)	Y83.23	Surgical operation with gastrointestinal anastomosis, bypass or graft	(1)	Y83.23	Surgical operation with gastrointestinal anastomosis, bypass or graft
(1)	Y92.23	Health service area, not specified as this facility	(1)	Y92.23	Health service area, not specified as this facility
			(1)	U73.89	Other specified activity, NEC

- The system requirements result in an activity code being assigned for the external cause Y83.

### Example 2: Single event – one diagnosis with two external causes

During admission for acute pancreatitis, patient developed decreased consciousness due to anti-emetic and opioid therapy.					
National			Western Australia		
(2)	K85.9	Acute pancreatitis, unspecified	(2)	K85.9	Acute pancreatitis, unspecified
(1)	R40.2	Coma	(1)	R40.2	Coma
(1)	Y43.0	Antiallergic and antiemetic drugs causing adverse effects in therapeutic use	(1)	Y43.0	Antiallergic and antiemetic drugs causing adverse effects in therapeutic use
(1)	Y45.0	Opioids and related analgesics causing adverse effects in therapeutic use	(1)	Y92.24	Place of occurrence, this facility
(1)	Y92.24	Place of occurrence, this facility	(1)	U73.89	Other specified activity, NEC
			(1)	Y45.0	Opioids and related analgesics causing adverse effects in therapeutic use
			(1)	Y92.24	Place of occurrence, this facility
			(1)	U73.89	Other specified activity, NEC

- The system requirements result in duplication of place of occurrence and activity codes even though a **single** place of occurrence and activity is being classified in this Example.
- The system requirements result in an activity code being assigned for Y43 and for Y45.



### Example 3: Single event – two diagnoses with one external cause

Patient admitted following intentional overdose of Amitriptyline and Lorazepam.

National			Western Australia		
(2)	T43.0	Tricyclic and tetracyclic antidepressants	(2)	T43.0	Tricyclic and tetracyclic antidepressants
(2)	T42.4	Benzodiazepines	(2)	T42.4	Benzodiazepines
(2)	X61	Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic, antiparkinsonism and psychotropic drugs, NEC	(2)	X61	Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic, antiparkinsonism and psychotropic drugs, NEC
(2)	Y92.9	Unspecified place of occurrence	(2)	Y92.9	Unspecified place of occurrence
(2)	U73.81	Intentional self-harm	(2)	U73.81	Intentional self-harm
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This scenario <b>is not</b> affected by HMDC system requirements.</li> </ul>					

### Example 4: Single event – two diagnoses with two external causes

Patient admitted with severe depression of the respiratory centre due to Seconal (secobarbital) taken in combination with alcohol (accidental) (Example 1 from ACS 1903)

National			Western Australia		
(2)	T42.3	Poisoning by barbiturates	(2)	T42.3	Poisoning by barbiturates
(2)	G93.8	Other specified disorders of brain	(2)	G93.8	Other specified disorders of brain
(2)	T51.0	Toxic effect of ethanol	(2)	X41	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to antiepileptic, sedative hypnotic, antiparkinsonism and psychotropic drugs, NEC
(2)	X41	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to antiepileptic, sedative hypnotic, antiparkinsonism and psychotropic drugs, NEC	(2)	Y92.9	Unspecified place of occurrence
(2)	X45	Accidental poisoning by and Exposure to alcohol	(2)	U73.89	Other specified activity, NEC
(2)	Y92.9	Unspecified place of occurrence	(2)	T51.0	Toxic effect of ethanol
(2)	U73.89	Other specified activity, NEC	(2)	X45	Accidental poisoning by and Exposure to alcohol
			(2)	Y92.9	Unspecified place of occurrence
			(2)	U73.89	Other specified activity, NEC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The system requirements result in duplication of place of occurrence and activity codes even though a <b>single</b> place of occurrence and activity is being classified in this Example.</li> </ul>					



**Example 5: Two events – two diagnoses; external cause code may be the same or different**

Patient admitted with cerebral infarction. On day 5, patient fell and developed a haematoma over their knee, which required increased clinical care. On day 7, patient fell and sustained a fractured wrist for which a plaster cast was applied.

National			Western Australia		
(2)	I63.9	Cerebral infarction, unspecified	(2)	I63.9	Cerebral infarction, unspecified
(1)	S80.0	Contusion of knee	(1)	S80.0	Contusion of knee
(1)	W18.9	Unspecified fall on same level	(1)	W18.9	Unspecified fall on same level
(1)	Y92.24	Place of occurrence, this facility	(1)	Y92.24	Place of occurrence, this facility
(1)	U73.89	Other specified activity, NEC	(1)	U73.89	Other specified activity, NEC
(1)	S52.20	Fracture of shaft of ulna, part unspecified	(1)	S52.20	Fracture of shaft of ulna, part unspecified
(1)	W18.9	Unspecified fall on same level	(1)	W18.9	Unspecified fall on same level
(1)	Y92.24	Place of occurrence, this facility	(1)	Y92.24	Place of occurrence, this facility
(1)	U73.89	Other specified activity, NEC	(1)	U73.89	Other specified activity, NEC

- This scenario **is not** affected by system requirements.

**Example 6: Two events – two diagnoses represented by the same code, but with different condition onset; external cause code may be the same or different.**

Patient admitted for atrial fibrillation and had sub-therapeutic INR on admission (COF 2). INR became supra-therapeutic during the admission (COF 1).

Documentation in current episode indicates that patient was commenced on anti-coagulant in a recent admission at this facility.

National			Western Australia		
(2)	I48.9	Atrial fibrillation and atrial flutter, unspecified	(2)	I48.9	Atrial fibrillation and atrial flutter, unspecified
(2)	R79.83	Abnormal coagulation profile	(2)	R79.83	Abnormal coagulation profile
(2)	Y44.2	Anticoagulants causing adverse effects in therapeutic use	(2)	Y44.2	Anticoagulants causing adverse effects in therapeutic use
(2)	Y92.24	Place of occurrence, this facility	(2)	Y92.24	Place of occurrence, this facility
(1)	Y44.2	Anticoagulants causing adverse effects in therapeutic use	(2)	U73.89	Other specified activity, NEC
(1)	Y92.24	Place of occurrence, this facility	(1)	Y44.2	Anticoagulants causing adverse effects in therapeutic use
			(1)	Y92.24	Place of occurrence, this facility
			(1)	U73.89	Other specified activity, NEC

- The system requirements result in an activity code being assigned for Y44.2 (COF 2) and for Y44.2 (COF 1).



## **DECISION**

**There is a Hospital Morbidity Data Collection (HMDC) system requirement for a place of occurrence and activity code to be assigned for each individual external cause code. In some instances, this requirement results in duplication of place of occurrence and activity codes, when a single place of occurrence and activity is being classified.**

Effective 1 April 2026, 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.