



Western Australian Coding Rule

0725/30 Failed epidural, re-sited

Q.

Is documentation of “failed epidural” (e.g. involving inadequate analgesia or anaesthesia requiring the epidural to be re-sited or converted to general anaesthesia) classified as an intervention complication?

A.

For a completed neuraxial block administered for **anaesthesia** and documented to have “failed” or to involve patient “awareness”, and which meets ACS 0002 *Additional diagnoses*, assign T88.53 *Failed anaesthesia* via Alphabetic Index:

Failure, failed

- anaesthesia T88.53

Complication(s) (due to surgical or medical care) (from) (of)

- anaesthesia NEC T88.59
- - awareness (during) T88.53
- - failed T88.53

For a completed neuraxial block administered for **analgesia** during labour, which is re-sited because it “failed” or is providing inadequate analgesia, there is no available ICD-10-AM Alphabetic Index pathway for classification **i.e. no diagnosis code is assigned**.

Refer also to ACS 0019 *Intervention abandoned, interrupted, not completed, or failed/Note 1* which instructs:

An intervention that is performed to its intended extent is considered complete for classification purposes and is coded as such, even if the expected outcome was not achieved.

DECISION

For a completed neuraxial block administered for anaesthesia and documented to have “failed” or to involve patient “awareness”, and which meets ACS 0002 *Additional diagnoses*, assign T88.53 *Failed anaesthesia*.

For a completed neuraxial block administered for analgesia during labour, which is re-sited because it “failed” or provided inadequate analgesia, there is no available ICD-10-AM Alphabetic Index pathway for classification i.e. no diagnosis code is assigned.

This WA Coding Rule 0725/30 *Failed epidural, re-sited* supersedes WA Coding Rule 0511/04 *Failed epidural, re-sited*.



This Rule has been modified to correspond with an update in ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Tenth Edition.

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

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



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.]

SUPERSEDED