



Western Australian Coding Rule

0725/93 Components of anterior or posterior cruciate ligament (ACL/PCL) reconstruction/revision of reconstruction

Q.

Is tendon and bone grafting (including harvesting) a routine and inherent component of anterior or posterior cruciate ligament (ACL/PCL) reconstruction/revision of reconstruction?

A.

A reconstruction (as opposed to a repair) of the ACL or PCL involves grafting of various tissues to anatomically reconstruct the injury or defect.

The most common grafts are autografts from the patellar bone, tibial bone, patellar tendon, quadriceps tendon or hamstring tendon. An allograft from a deceased donor may also be used.

Rarely, repair of the ACL or PCL may be performed by suturing alone of the injury, however reconstruction requires a graft to replace the injured ligament.

For ACL reconstruction, a bone-patellar tendon-bone (BTPB) graft consists of a portion of the patellar tendon with bone plugs from the patella and tibia at either end. The BPTB graft replaces the ACL. Bone harvest, implantation of BTPB graft, and graft filling of tunnel/harvest sites, are components of ACL reconstruction and revision of ACL reconstruction, and should not be coded separately in accordance with ACS 0016 *General intervention guidelines/Exception 2*.

DECISION

Tendon grafting (including harvesting) is a routine and inherent component of ACL/PCL reconstruction/revision of reconstruction and should not be coded separately.

Bone harvest, implantation of BTPB graft, and graft filling of tunnel/harvest sites, are components of ACL reconstruction and revision of ACL reconstruction and should not be coded separately.

This WA Coding Rule 0725/93 *Components of anterior or posterior cruciate ligament (ACL/PCL) reconstruction/revision of reconstruction* supersedes WA Coding Rule 1116/06 *Grafting in ACL/PCL reconstruction*.



This Rule has been modified to amend original classification instruction in WACR 1116/06 *Grafting in ACL/PCL reconstruction*; and to correspond with a minor modification in ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Thirteenth Edition.

Effective 1 October 2026, 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

1116/06 Grafting in ACL/PCL reconstruction

Q.

Should a graft and/or its harvest be coded when it is used in an ACL or PCL reconstruction?

A.

A reconstruction (as opposed to a repair) of the ACL or PCL involves grafting to reconstruct the injury or defect. The most common grafts are autografts from the patellar tendon, quadriceps tendon or hamstring tendon. An allograft from a deceased donor may also be used.

Rarely, repair of the ACL or PCL may be performed by suturing alone of the injury, however reconstruction requires a graft to replace the injured ligament.

DECISION

Grafting and procurement of the graft are inherent in reconstruction of the ACL/PCL and should not be coded separately.

[Effective 23 Nov 2016, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 9th Ed.]