



## Injections and Infusions

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Thoughts to keep in mind about Injections:

Normally injections are not coded in the inpatient setting, and substances injected during an operative procedure are not coded separately. Coding Clinic 3<sup>rd</sup> Q '15

With this in mind, and knowing many facilities are using ICD-10-PCS to code procedures in the outpatient setting, let's take another look at coding Injections and Infusions.

### ICD-10-PCS

In the index to ICD-10-PCS main terms "Infusions" and "Injections" both have a note directing the coder to "see Introduction of substance in or on." So let's see how a procedure code is built for infusions and injections in ICD-10-PCS.

Introduction is a Root Operation in the Administration section.

ICD-10-PCS Code structure in the Administrative Section:

<b>Character 1 Section</b>	<b>Character 2 Body System</b>	<b>Character 3 Root Operation</b>	<b>Character 4 Body System/ Region</b>	<b>Character 5 Approach</b>	<b>Character 6 Substance</b>	<b>Character 7 Qualifier</b>
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### Administration Section

The Administration section is section 3 of ICD-10-PCS and includes infusions, injections, and transfusions, as well as other related procedures, such as irrigation and tattooing. All codes in this section define procedures where a diagnostic or therapeutic substance is given to the patient. The first character in the Administration section is "3."

### Body System

Only one body system, second character, Physiological Systems and Anatomical Regions, character "E," is available for selection with the root operation Introduction.

### Introduction, Root Operation

Introduction, character "0," is defined as putting in or on a therapeutic, diagnostic, nutritional, physiological, or prophylactic substance except blood or blood products, and is the third character in the code.

All Introduction codes will be found in Table 3E0 in the ICD-10-PCS tabular.

Character 1 Section	Character 2 Body System	Character 3 Root Operation
Administration  3	Physiological Systems and Anatomical Regions E	Introduction  0



The fourth character defines the Body Part/Region, or specific anatomical site, where the procedure was performed. There are currently 32 choices for Body Part/Regions in table 3E0, however, the most commonly used character choices for the fourth character will be:

- 1 - Subcutaneous Tissue
- 2 - Muscle
- 3 - Peripheral Vein
- 4 - Central Vein
- 5 - Peripheral Artery
- 6 - Central Artery

The fifth character defines the Approach, or technique used to reach the procedure site. While there are currently five choices for Approach in table 3E0, the most common character choice will be:

- 3 - Percutaneous - defined as entry, by puncture or minor incision, of instrumentation through the skin or mucous membrane and/or any other body layers necessary to reach the site of the procedure. In this section Percutaneous includes catheters used to introduce substances into the circulatory system and injections that are:
  - o Intradermal
  - o Subcutaneous
  - o Intramuscular

The sixth character, Substance, specifies the substance introduced. There are currently 29 choices for Substance in table 3E0 and documentation in the medical record will have to be consulted by the coder to make the correct choice.

The seventh character, Qualifier, may further specify the substance specified in the sixth character.

What will the coder need to know to code the following example?

**Example:** Epidural injection of steroid for pain control.

- ✓ Section - Administration
- ✓ Root Operation - Introduction
- ✓ Body System/Region - Epidural space
- ✓ Substance - Steroid - oh, no! "Steroid" is not a choice! What do we know about steroids? Corticosteroids are manufactured steroids that work like the hormone cortisol, made by your adrenal glands. Corticosteroids slow or stop the immune system processes that trigger inflammation, therefore, in this example they would be an Anti-inflammatory

## ICD-10-PCS Index

Introduction of substance in or on  
Epidural space

Anti-inflammatory **3E0S33Z** 



ICD-10-PCS Tabular

Section **3** Administration  
 Body System **E** Physiological Systems and Anatomical Regions  
 Operation **0** Introduction: Putting in or on a therapeutic, diagnostic, nutritional, physiological, or prophylactic substance except blood or blood products

Body System / Region	Approach	Substance	Qualifier
S Epidural Space	3 Percutaneous	3 Anti-inflammatory 6 Nutritional Substance 7 Electrolytic and Water Balance Substance B Local Anesthetic C Regional Anesthetic H radioactive Substance K Other Diagnostic Substance N Analgesics, Hypnotics, Sedatives T Destructive Agent	Z No Qualifier

**3E0S33Z**

What will the coder need to know to code next example?

**Example:** Subcutaneous (subcu) injection of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

- ✓ Section - Administration
- ✓ Root Operation - Introduction
- ✓ Body System/Region - Subcutaneous Tissue
- ✓ Substance - Vaccine

ICD-10-PCS Index

Introduction of substance in or on  
 Subcutaneous tissue  
 Vaccine **3E0134Z**



ICD-10-PCS Tabular

Section **3** Administration  
 Body System **E** Physiological Systems and Anatomical Regions  
 Operation **0** Introduction: Putting in or on a therapeutic, diagnostic, nutritional, physiological, or prophylactic substance except blood or blood products

Body System / Region	Approach	Substance	Qualifier
1 Subcutaneous Tissue	3 Percutaneous	3 Anti-inflammatory 4 Serum, Toxoid and Vaccine 6 Nutritional Substance 7 Electrolytic and Water Balance Substance B Local Anesthetic H Radioactive Substance K Other Diagnostic Substance N Analgesics, Hypnotics, Sedatives T Destructive Agent	Z No Qualifier

**3E0134Z**

What will the coder need to know to code next example?

**Example:** Endoscopic injection of a sclerosing agent into an esophageal varix of the lower esophagus.

- ✓ Section - Administration
- ✓ Root Operation - Introduction
- ✓ Body System/Region - Esophagus - This is not a choice, so what do we know about the esophagus? We know it is part of the Gastrointestinal Tract, and that the Upper tract includes the esophagus to the duodenum. Therefore we know in this case the Body System/Region is the upper gastrointestinal tract.
- ✓ Substance - Sclerosing agent - Again, this is not a choice, but we know a sclerosing agent is meant to destroy its target; therefore Destructive Agent would be the correct choice.

ICD-10-PCS Index

Introduction of substance in or on  
 Gastrointestinal Tract  
 Upper 3E0G

Destructive Agent **3E0G**



ICD-10-PCS Tabular

Section **3** Administration  
 Body System **E** Physiological Systems and Anatomical Regions  
 Operation **0** Introduction: Putting in or on a therapeutic, diagnostic, nutritional, physiological, or prophylactic substance except blood or blood products

Body System / Region	Approach	Substance	Qualifier
E Products of Conception	3 Percutaneous	3 Anti-inflammatory	Z No Qualifier
G Upper GI ←	7 Via Natural or Artificial Opening	6 Nutritional Substance	
H Lower GI	8 Via Natural or Artificial Opening Endoscopic ←	7 Electrolytic and Water Balance Substance	
K Genitourinary Tract		B Local Anesthetic	
N Male Reproductive		H Radioactive Substance	
		K Other Diagnostic Substance	
		N Analgesics, Hypnotics, Sedatives	
		T Destructive Agent ←	

**3EOG8TZ**

What will the coder need to know to code next example?

**Example:** Patient was admitted for chemotherapy (Cytoxan) administered percutaneously via central vein for Burkitt's lymphoma.

- ✓ Section - Administration
- ✓ Root Operation - Introduction
- ✓ Body System/Region - Central vein
- ✓ Substance - Cytoxan - Antineoplastic (Generic name Cyclophosphamide)
- ✓ Qualifier - this is not listed as one of the specific Qualifiers therefore Other Antineoplastic

ICD-10-PCS Index

Introduction of substance in or on  
Vein

Central 3E04

Antineoplastic **3E04** ←



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## ICD-10-PCS Tabular

Section **3** Administration  
Body System **E** Physiological Systems and Anatomical Regions  
Operation **0** Introduction: Putting in or on a therapeutic, diagnostic, nutritional, physiological, or prophylactic substance except blood or blood products

Body System / Region	Approach	Substance	Qualifier
4 Central Vein	3 Percutaneous	0 Antineoplastic	2 High-dose Interleukin-2 3 Low-dose Interleukin-2 5 Other Antineoplastic M Monoclonal Antibody P Clofarabine

### 3E04305

Final thought: The coder must be guided by documentation in the medical record of each individual case to make the correct code selections.

