

Coding Tobacco Use/Abuse/Dependence

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Vol. 3

Coders participating in dual coding are struggling with how to code tobacco use, abuse and dependence.

If we consult the **ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2015**, pages 34-35, we are given a hierarchy for coding Use/Abuse/Dependence:

- If both use and abuse are documented, assign only the code for abuse
- If both abuse and dependence are documented, assign only the code for dependence
- If use, abuse and dependence are all documented, assign only the code for dependence
- If both use and dependence are documented, assign only the code for dependence.

Guidance for coding Tobacco Use/Abuse/Dependence when using the ICD-10-CM Codebook:

- Follow the index in the ICD-10-CM code book for the appropriate code for Tobacco Use/Abuse/Dependence:
 - Use (of) tobacco codes to Z72.0, but it may not be reported with a code from F17 (Nicotine dependence) per Excludes1 note with Z72.0 and F17
 - There is no code for tobacco abuse
 - Dependence, tobacco directs the coder to - see Dependence, drug, nicotine
 - Dependence, drug, nicotine codes to F17.200,
 - Subcategories under F17 (Nicotine dependence) identify specific tobacco products including:
 - Chewing tobacco
 - Cigarettes
 - Specified product
 - Subcategories under F17 (Nicotine dependence) identify specific nicotine-induced disorders including:
 - Uncomplicated
 - In remission
 - With withdrawal
 - With other nicotine-induced disorders
 - With unspecified nicotine-induced disorders
 - The term "Smoker" in the CD-10-CM index, refers the coder to - see Dependence, drug, nicotine
 - Code assignment for a pregnant patient who smokes requires two codes, O99.33- (Smoking (tobacco)complicating pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium) plus an F17 (Nicotine dependence) code for the type of tobacco
 - Code assignment for a patient who has a past history of tobacco dependence, not current dependence on tobacco, codes to Z87.891 (Personal history of nicotine dependence)
 - There is no code for past history of tobacco use, only a code for past history of tobacco dependence
 - Tobacco dependence in remission is coded differently than past history of tobacco dependence, and the information is given by the sixth character "1" in the F17 (Nicotine dependence) codes.
 - Example: F17.211 Nicotine dependence, cigarettes, in remission

Helpful advice comes from **AHA Coding Clinic**, 4th Quarter 2013, p 109, which discusses the fact that the provider must document a cause and effect relationship between smoking and other disease processes before the coder may link the disease process to smoking.

- Example based on this Coding Clinic: Patient is a current cigarette smoker with a 20 year history of smoking who now presents with emphysema. The physician does not link the smoking to the emphysema in the medical record; therefore, it would not be appropriate for the coder to use F17.218, Nicotine dependence, cigarettes, with other nicotine-induced disorders.

What about E smoking?

Electronic cigarettes are battery-powered vaporizer devices that turn liquid nicotine into a vapor that can be inhaled; therefore, they could be considered to be a "Nicotine inhaler."

- ICD-10-CM Index
 - **Nicotine** – see Tobacco
- ICD-10-CM Index
 - **Tobacco (nicotine)**
 - dependence —see Dependence, drug, nicotine
 - harmful use Z72.0
 - heart —see Tobacco, toxic effect
 - maternal use, affecting newborn P04.2
 - toxic effect —see Table of Drugs and Chemicals, by substance, poisoning
 - chewing tobacco —see Table of Drugs and Chemicals, by substance, poisoning
 - cigarettes —see Table of Drugs and Chemicals, by substance, poisoning
 - use Z72.0
 - complicating
 - childbirth O99.334
 - pregnancy O99.33-
 - puerperium O99.335
 - counseling and surveillance Z71.6
 - withdrawal state —see Dependence, drug, nicotine

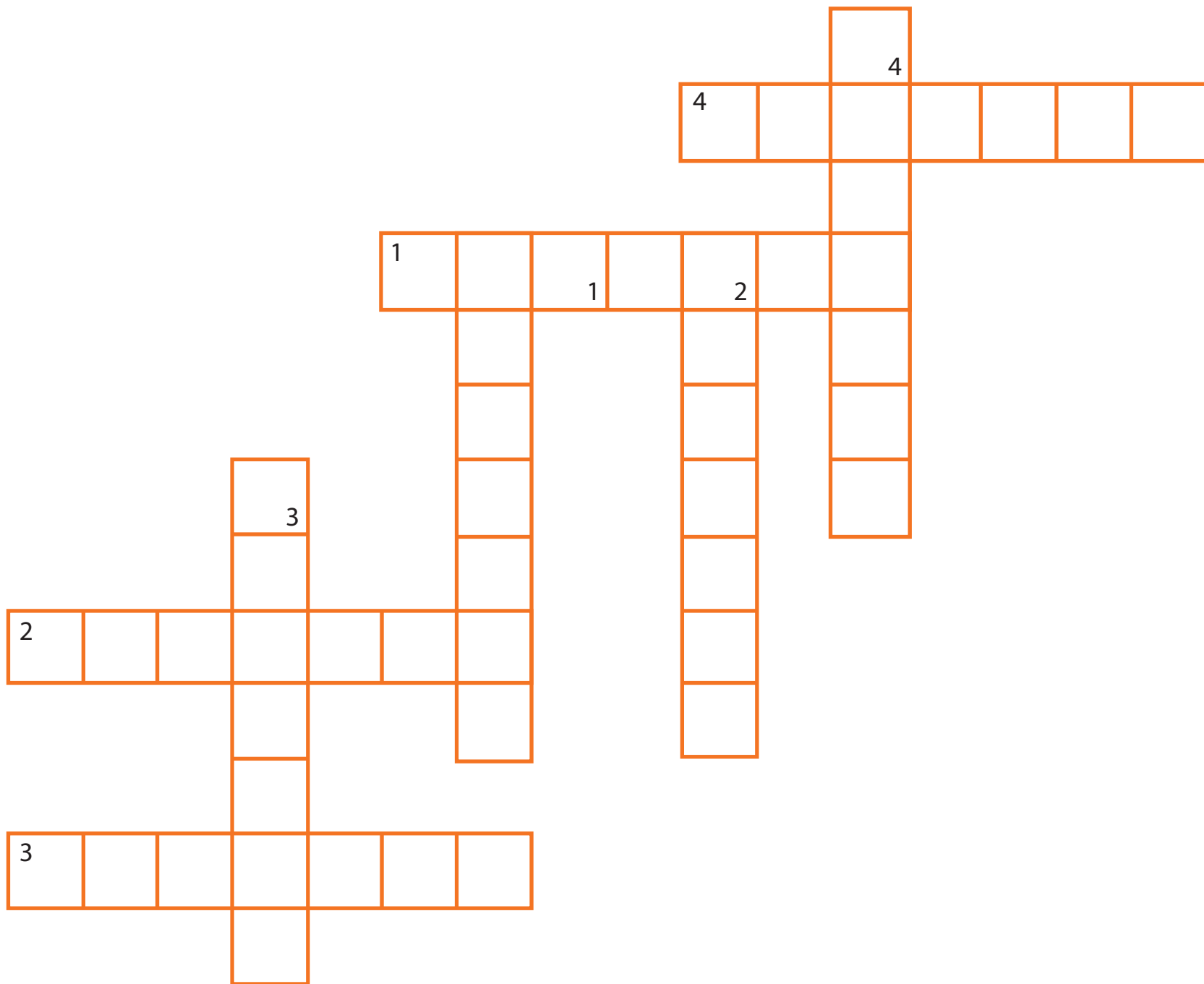
Therefore, based on documentation found in the medical record, the correct coding path would be selected under the Main Term "**Tobacco**" in the ICD-10-CM Index, and then verified in the ICD-10-CM Tabular.

Final thoughts concerning tobacco use/abuse/dependence:

- Of the F17 (Nicotine dependence) codes, only those specifying dependence "with withdrawal" are a CC, none are an MCC
- None of the O99.33_ codes are a CC or MCC (These are the obstetric codes for smoking complicating pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium)
- P04.2 is not a CC or MCC (This is the pediatric code for newborn affected by maternal use of tobacco)
- Z72.0 is not a CC or MCC (This is the problems related to lifestyle code specifying tobacco use)
- Please use the documentation provided in the medical record as well as the index in the ICD-10-CM code book to guide your code choice

THE ICD-10 FUN CORNER

Anthelio's ICD-10-PCS CrossCode Puzzle



ICD-10-PCS Procedures: (The answers are Codes and not words)

Across

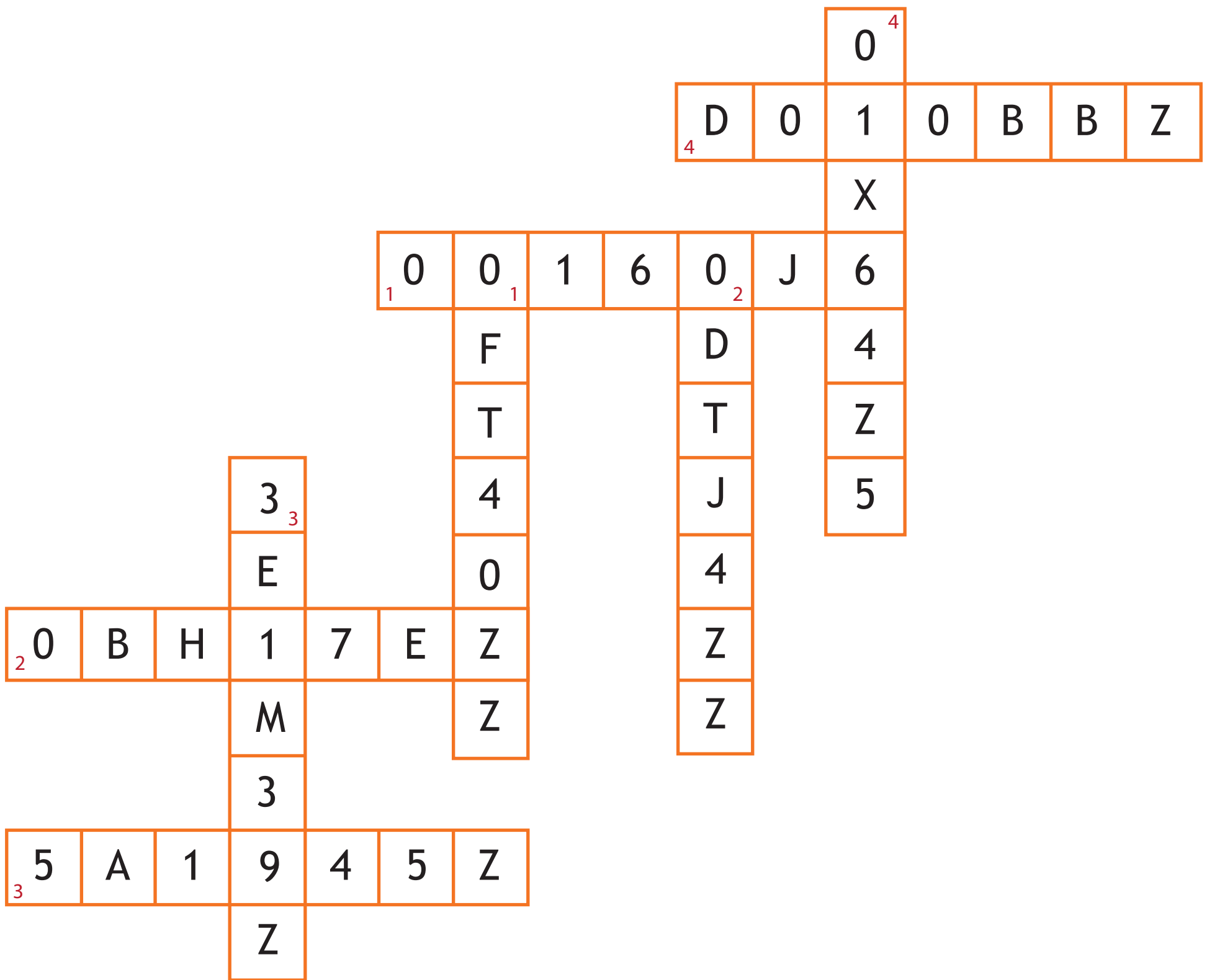
1. Ventricular-peritoneal Shunt, Open Approach
2. Insertion of endotracheal tube, via Natural Opening
3. Mechanical ventilation, 52 hours
4. Brachytherapy of brain with low dose Palladium

Down

1. Open total cholecystectomy
2. Laparoscopic Appendectomy
3. Peritoneal dialysis via indwelling catheter
4. Endoscopic radial to median nerve transfer

The answers are on the next page.

Solution



ICD-10-PCS Procedures:

Across

1. Ventricular-peritoneal Shunt, Open Approach
2. Insertion of endotracheal tube, via Natural Opening
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1. Open total cholecystectomy
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