

Injections and Infusions

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The switch from ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-PCS has a profound effect on the coding of the procedure of injections and infusions in the inpatient setting.

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:

Character 1 Section	Character 2 Body System	Character 3 Root Operation	Character 4 Body System/ Region	Character 5 Approach	Character 6 Substance	Character 7 Qualifier
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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 31 choices for Body Part/Regions in table 3E0, however, the most common 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.

Example: Epidural injection of steroid for pain control. 3E0S33Z

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 System 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

Example: Subcutaneous (subcu) injection of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine. 3E0134Z

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 System 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