



Western Australian Coding Rule

0217/03 Tattoo infection

WA Coding Rule 0812/02 *Tattoo infection* is superseded by ACCD Coding Rule ***External cause of injury code for tattoo complication*** (Ref No: Q3074) effective 1 January 2017; (log in to view on the [ACCD CLIP portal](#)).

DECISION

WA Coding Rule 0812/02 *Tattoo infection* is retired.

[Effective 01 January 2017, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 9th Ed.]



Western Australian Coding Rule

0812/02 Tattoo infection

Q.

Can you please provide advice on how to code cellulitis of the lower leg due to a tattoo? There is no open wound mentioned and the tattoo is 5 days old. The infection was treated with IV antibiotics.

A.

Consider tattooing the same as body piercing i.e. a foreign body entering through skin. This allows the use of W450. Note the word voluntary which removes the accidental component which will be in the other code selections. Cellulitis due to a tattoo therefore would be coded to:

L0311 Cellulitis of lower limb

W450 Body piercing

Y9258 Other specified trade and service area

U738 Other specified activity.

DECISION

An infected tattoo with cellulitis should be coded to:

L0311 Cellulitis of lower limb

W450 Body piercing

Y9258 Other specified trade and service area

U738 Other specified activity

[Effective 15 August 2012, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 7th Ed.]