



Western Australian Coding Rule

0318/34 Blood Alcohol Level (BAL)

In ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Tenth Edition, a conversion of blood alcohol readings table was added to code Y90 *Evidence of alcohol involvement determined by blood alcohol level* to provide guidelines for code assignment. WA Coding Rule 0813/04 *Blood Alcohol Level (BAL)* is therefore retired.

DECISION

WA Coding Rule 0813/04 *Blood Alcohol Level (BAL)* is retired.

[Effective 1 Jul 2017, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 10th Ed.]



Western Australian Coding Rule

0813/04 Blood Alcohol Level (BAL)

Q.

Should codes from Y90 *Evidence of alcohol involvement determined by blood alcohol level* be assigned routinely?

A.

ACS 0503 *Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Use Disorders* states, *if there is documentation of the blood alcohol level, then a code from Y90 **can be assigned**, but only when a code of intoxication (F10.0), harmful use (F10.1) or dependence syndrome (F10.2) is applicable in the case being coded. Y90.9 and Y91 should never be assigned.*

Also stated in Coding Matters vol. 15 no. 3, *the documentation in the clinical record or reported hospital pathology laboratories does not always match the BAL stated in the Y90.x code ranges.*

We believe the coding of Y90.x has never been reliable since its introduction. We recommend coders in WA do not code Y90.x when a BAL is documented.

DECISION

There is no requirement to assign a code from Y90.x when BAL is documented with F10.0, F10.1 or F10.2 .

[Effective 21 Aug 2013, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ASC 8th Ed.]