



# Western Australian Coding Rule

## 0318/36 Acquired encephalocele

In ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Tenth Edition, a new Alphabetic Index entry was created for acquired encephalocele. WA Coding Rule 0713/03 *Acquired encephalocele* is therefore retired.

### **DECISION**

**WA Coding Rule 0713/03 *Acquired encephalocele* is retired.**

[Effective 01 Jul 2017, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 10<sup>th</sup> Ed.]



# Western Australian Coding Rule

## 0713/03 Acquired encephalocele

### Q.

What is the correct code for tegmen tympany dehiscence with small encephalocele and temporal repair of encephalocele? The doctor has confirmed it is an acquired encephalocele (not congenital).

### A.

Temporal bone encephalocele is herniation of meninges and/or brain tissue through a bone defect. In the temporal bone, the site of the defect is typically located in the floor of the middle cranial fossa, occasionally in the posterior fossa wall.

The two primary sites in the floor are the tegmen tympani and tegmen mastoideum. In general, encephaloceles are either acquired or spontaneous. Acquired encephaloceles are most commonly due to chronic OM, trauma, neoplasm, irradiation or a complication of surgery. Spontaneous encephaloceles may be congenital, or from increased intracranial pressure. Symptoms of temporal bone meningoencephalocele may include: conductive hearing loss, otorrhea, recurrent meningitis. Less common presenting symptoms are facial nerve weakness, seizures and pulsatile tinnitus

There is no index pathway for acquired encephalocele – the classification defaults to a Q code. We are correct in following this pathway because congenital is not an essential modifier, however this query will be sent to the NECH. In the meantime follow the index pathway:

Encephalocele  
- specified NEC Q01.89.

If the cause of the acquired encephalocele is documented, it should be coded as an additional diagnosis. In this case the documented cause is tegmen tympany dehiscence, which is coded via the pathway:

Disease  
- middle ear  
-- specified NEC H74.8

The correct procedure code assignment is 40109-00 [22] *Repair of encephalocele*.

## DECISION



**This query will be sent to the NCCH. In the meantime, assign the following diagnosis and procedure codes for repair of acquired temporal bone encephalocele due to tegmen tympany dehiscence:**

**Q01.89**                    *Encephalocele of other specified sites*  
**H74.8**                    *Other specified disorders of middle ear and mastoid*  
**40109-00 [22]**        *Repair of encephalocele*

[Effective 10 Jul 2013, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 8<sup>th</sup> Ed.]

RETIRED