



Western Australian Coding Rule

0620/01 Dumped or knocked over by wave

Q. What external cause code should be assigned for being dumped by wave or knocked over by wave?

A.

Trauma (such as contusion, fracture, dislocation, spinal injury) associated with a wave usually occurs when the physical force of a wave drives a person into the ocean floor.

If a patient is dumped by a wave whilst on a surfboard or other watercraft, assign a code from category V90-V94 *Water transport accidents*.

Currently ICD-10-AM does not have clear external cause classification for injuries due to the physical force of a wave:

- Wave causing person to strike the ocean floor; or
- Person struck by physical force of the wave itself; or
- Wave causing person to strike against an object in water

The best fit Alphabetic Index pathways for the above three external causes are:

Striking against

- bottom (when jumping or diving into water) W16.0

...

- object (stationary)

...

- - in water (floating)(submerged) W16.9

- water surface (with injury other than drowning or submersion) W16.2

Code X39 *Exposure to other and unspecified forces of nature* is inappropriate as it is a non-specific code and also includes extraordinary/extreme events such as tidal wave and cataclysm. A HMDS edit is generated when this code is assigned, because it should be rarely assigned.

DECISION

This query will be referred to IHPA. In the meantime, the following external cause codes for wave injuries are applicable:

- **Wave causing person to strike the ocean floor: W16.0**
- **Person struck by physical force of the wave itself W16.2**
- **Wave causing person to strike against an object in water W16.9**
- **Wave causing injury whilst person is on a surfboard or other watercraft: code from V90-V94 *Water transport accidents*.**

For non-specific documentation about the mechanism of injury such as “dumped by wave”, where clinician clarification is unavailable, assign **W16.2 *Diving or jumping into water striking or hitting water surface***.

[Effective 1 July 2020, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 11th Ed.]