

Accidental cut and puncture during a procedure

Purpose: Data analysis demonstrates that in 2012–2013, 27% of cases with diagnosis code **T81.2** *Accidental puncture and laceration during a procedure, not elsewhere classified* have the incorrect external cause code assigned.

What do the standards say?

The coding standard “Puncture/Laceration/Perforation During a Procedure” is found within the standard *Misadventures During Surgical and Medical Care*. It provides details on when a code from **T81.2** is and is not assigned.

Diagnosis code **T81.2** is assigned when the puncture/laceration/perforation meets one of the criteria for significance. The code is not assigned when a laceration occurs to a diseased organ that is being removed as part of the originally planned surgery.

What does the data say?

The data shows code combinations that include **T81.2** with a code from **Y83**.— *Surgical operation and other surgical procedures as the cause of abnormal reaction of the patient, or of later complication, without mention of misadventure at the time of the procedure.*

These are incorrect code combinations, as the puncture/laceration/perforation is a **misadventure** to the patient during a medical or surgical procedure, not an **abnormal reaction/later complication**.

What is the correct external cause code?

The correct external cause code is one from category **Y60**.— *Unintentional cut, puncture, perforation or haemorrhage during surgical and medical care.*

Data Quality Check

Identify and review cases that have code **T81.2** assigned and no **Y60**.— code on the abstract.

