Reader Question: Keep These Codes Handy to Avoid ICD-10 Pain in the Neck

Question: When a patient reports to the orthopedist complaining of neck pain, what is the correct ICD-10 code for the patient?

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Answer: If the provider arrives at no more specific diagnosis than neck pain, then you should report M54.2 (Cervicalgia) for most diagnoses of neck pain.

Exception: If the neck pain is related to cervical disc disorder, then you might choose one of the following codes, depending on encounter specifics:

- M50.0- ?" Cervical disc disorder with myelopathy
- M50.1- ?" Cervical disc disorder with radiculopathy
- M50.2- ?" Other cervical disc displacement
- M50.3- ?" Other cervical disc degeneration
- M50.8- ?" Other cervical disc disorders
- M50.9- ?" Cervical disc disorder, unspecified.