

Coding Tip: ICD-10-CM sequencing guidelines for Delivery

According to the ICD-10cm official guidelines for coding and reporting (fiscal year 2018) Chapter 15: pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium; section 4. (e.g., page 19 of 117), if multiple conditions prompted the admission, sequence the one most related to the delivery as the principal diagnosis. A code for any complication of the delivery should be assigned as an additional diagnosis.

For example, a patient is admitted for preterm premature rupture of the membranes at 30 weeks of gestation, goes in labor two days later then delivers (still at 30+ weeks). In this example, we recommend sequencing the codes as follows:

- O60.14X0 Preterm labor third trimester with preterm delivery third trimester
- O42.113 Preterm premature rupture of membranes, onset of labor more than 24 hours following rupture, third trimester
- Z37.X (Outcome of delivery)
- Z3A.30 (Gestational Age)

For full information on sequencing please see the ICD-10-CM Official guidelines for coding and reporting. They are free, and can be found at this internet address: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/Downloads/2018-ICD-10-CM-Coding-Guidelines.pdf>

