



Western Australian Coding Rule

1113/03 Bulging anterior fontanelle

Q.

What is the correct code to assign for bulging anterior fontanelle?

A.

A bulging anterior fontanelle in an infant may be a sign of a more serious condition such as encephalitis, hydrocephalus, meningitis, cerebral haemorrhage, intracranial abscess or other causes of raised intracranial pressure (D'Alessandro 2011; *Fontanelles – bulging 2013*).

There is no index entry for bulging anterior fontanelle. We recommend assigning R68.1 *Nonspecific symptoms peculiar to infancy* when bulging anterior fontanelle meets the criteria in ACS 0001 *Principal diagnosis* or ACS 0002 *Additional diagnoses* for it to be assigned. Bulging anterior fontanelle should not be routinely coded when noted on examination.

DECISION

Bulging anterior fontanelle should be coded to R68.1 *Nonspecific symptoms peculiar to infancy* when it meets the criteria in ACS 0001 *Principal diagnosis* or ACS 0002 *Additional diagnoses*.

[Effective 26 Nov 2013, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 8th Ed.]