Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Western Australian Coding Rule

1209/16   Epidural top up in labour

Q.

If an epidural does not provide adequate analgesia or anaesthesia and is re-sited, or converted to General Anaesthetic, should we assign a complication code to reflect documented "failed epidural?"

Some coders have misinterpreted FAQ relating to epidural top up procedure coding (Coding Matters Vol 14 No 3).

FAQ example states: "92507-xx was not assigned as top up was 2-3 hours prior to delivery and then LA used for repair of perineal tear".

A.

This should NOT be interpreted to mean 92507-xx is assigned based on **time** between top up and delivery. 92507-xx should only be assigned when the epidural top up is used as anaesthesia for intervention at delivery e.g. vacuum, forceps, perineal tear repair, manual removal placenta, caesarean etc.

DECISION
92507-xx *Neuraxial block in labour and delivery procedure* should only be assigned when the epidural top up is performed to provide anaesthesia for intervention at delivery.

[Effective 04 Dec 2009, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 6th Ed.]

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