
ICD-10-AM Tenth Edition: cataract removal and lens insertion

Statistical Services Branch, Queensland Health

For further information contact:

Statistical Services Branch
Queensland Health
GPO Box 48
Brisbane Queensland 4001 Australia
tel (+61) (07) 37085677
hlthstat@health.qld.gov.au
www.health.qld.gov.au

Contributors: Chris Moser

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The implementation of Australian Classification for Health Interventions (ACHI) Tenth Edition on 1 July 2017 includes an extensive review of procedure codes in Chapter 3 *Procedures on eye and adnexa*.

As noted in the Australian Consortium for Classification Development (ACCD) Tenth Edition Addenda Paper 'Review of ACHI Chapter 3 *Procedures on eye and adnexa* (Blocks 160–256) Part I¹', historically ACHI codes are based on the Medical Benefits Scheme (MBS) fee schedule. However over the years, differences in structure and other sources used to update ACHI have resulted in deviation from strict adherence to the MBS concepts especially where such concepts are not well supported in the documentation in clinical records (such as size of lesions), or include disease concepts that are considered less important e.g. laterality.

Over time, multiple procedure codes have been developed which relate to the same Medical Benefits Scheme (MBS) item. Procedural concepts have been expanded to classify the laterality or the different methods used to perform the same procedure.

ACCD undertook a national review (in consultation with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) and the Australian Society of Ophthalmologists) of the frequency of usage of Chapter 3 *Procedures on eye and adnexa* procedure codes for financial years 2008–09 to 2011–12. The review identified a very low volume of assignment for many of these codes.

As part of the development of ACHI for Tenth Edition, there has been a review of MBS updates and of Chapter 3 codes from block [160] *Examination procedures on eyeball* to block [220] *Other procedures on extraocular muscle or tendon*. Some codes in block [1835] *Other diagnostic ophthalmic tests, measures or investigations* have been end dated as of 30 June 2017 as a result of the MBS updates.

One of the most significant impacts of this review and resulting ACHI code update relates to the change in assignment of procedure codes relating to cataract procedures. The review of ACHI codes, in particular those relating to cataract procedure codes in blocks [193] to [201], identified that the codes were overly granular with many overlapping concepts. It was also noted that some cataract repairs, such as those performed for juvenile/congenital cataracts, may be performed as staged procedures and so for consistency, the assignment of two procedure codes was identified as being required.

Prior to 1 July 2017, ACHI facilitated the assignment of a single procedure code to capture extraction of cataract (crystalline lens) and insertion of lens prosthesis.

¹ Australian Consortium for Classification Development (2017) Review of ACHI Chapter 3 Procedures on eye and adnexa (Blocks 160-256) Part 1, Sydney, ACCD

From 1 July 2017, cataract procedures will require the assignment of two procedure codes – one each from block [200] *Extraction of crystalline lens* to specify the type of lens extraction and one from block [193] to specify *Insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis*. Also, as new types of intraocular lenses are being developed and used in cataract surgery, classifying the procedures with ‘foldable’ or ‘rigid’ intraocular lens is redundant.

The different types of extraction of crystalline lens have now been classified in block [200] as:

- 42698-06 *Intracapsular extraction of crystalline lens*
- 42698-07 *Phacoemulsification of crystalline lens*
- 42698-08 *Other extracapsular extraction of crystalline lens*
- 42731-01 *Extraction of crystalline lens with removal of vitreous*
- 42698-05 *Other extraction of crystalline lens*

The ACHI codes in the following blocks have been end dated from 30 June 2017:

- [195] *Intracapsular crystalline lens extraction*
- [196] *Extracapsular crystalline lens extraction by aspiration alone*
- [197] *Extracapsular crystalline lens extraction by phacoemulsification*
- [198] *Extracapsular crystalline lens extraction by mechanical phacofragmentation*
- [199] *Other extracapsular crystalline lens extraction.*

The title for block [200] has been amended from *Other extraction of crystalline lens* to *Extraction of crystalline lens*. Changes to the ACHI codes in this block include the:

- creation of three new codes
- amendment of the title of one code
- addition of an Inclusion term
- end dating of two codes.

For further information about specific ACHI Tenth Edition codes, please refer to the classification.

Conclusion

Changes to the coding of cataract related ACHI Tenth Edition procedure codes will impact reporting of cataract surgery. Reporting requirements will need to be clarified and clearly state if data relates to the extraction of crystalline lens (cataract) or lens insertion.

From 1 July 2017, it is recommended that codes from **either** blocks [200] *Extraction of crystalline lens* or [193] *Insertion of intraocular lens prosthesis* are independently used in reporting in order to not over report the number of cataract related procedures being undertaken.

Care should be taken when comparing trends in assignment of these procedure codes for hospital separations pre and post 2017-18 in light of these changes.