

What is the correct Condition Onset Flag (COF) for Z53 *Persons encountering health services for specific procedures, not carried out*?

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Diagnosis codes in the range Z53 *Persons encountering health services for specific procedures, not carried out*, incorporates several reasons for why a patient may not have a planned procedure.

The reasons may include:

- administrative reasons – for example, the theatre has been over booked.
- the patient has a contra-indication that could complicate the procedure or needs urgent treatment itself – for example, the patient has a high temperature and productive cough
- the patient decides not to go ahead with the procedure.



What is the correct Condition Onset Flag (COF) that should be assigned in these situations?

Typically, the COF assigned for a Z53 *Persons encountering health services for specific procedures, not carried out* is 2 – Condition arose during the episode of patient care.

State-wide, the current profile of COF assignment for Z53 codes is as below (as at 11 December 2018).

ICD-10-AM Code and Description		COF=1	COF=2
Z53.0	Procedure not carried out because of contraindication	848	1028
Z53.1	Procedure not carried out because of patient's decision for reasons of belief or group pressure	3	2
Z53.2	Procedure not carried out because of patient's decision for other and unspecified reasons	124	199
Z53.8	Procedure not carried out for other reasons	842	1297
Z53.9	Procedure not carried out, unspecified reason	260	213

Example 1

A patient is admitted for day surgery. The patient completes their pre-operative check with nursing staff, is seen by the Anaesthetist, but prior to going to theatre, the patient is notified that their procedure is cancelled as the surgeon has been urgently called away and is not available.

The COF assigned to diagnosis code Z53.8 *Procedure not carried out for other reasons* is 2 – Condition arose during the episode of patient care.

Example 2

An obstetric patient experiences a second degree tear during an in-hospital delivery. The patient is advised by her Doctor that the tear needs to be sutured, but the patient refuses.

The COF assigned to diagnosis code Z53.2 *Procedure not carried out because of patient's decision for other and unspecified reasons* is 2 – Condition arose during the episode of patient care.

Example 3

A patient is admitted for orthopaedic surgery. On assessment by the Anaesthetist, it is identified that the patient has pneumonia. The orthopaedic procedure is cancelled, and the patient continues their episode of care and is treated for pneumonia.

The COF assigned to diagnosis code Z53.0 *Procedure not carried out because of contraindication* is 2 – Condition arose during the episode of patient care.



Note: Even though the contraindication (pneumonia) was present on admission, the decision not to perform the procedure was made after admission, so therefore the COF assigned is 2 – Condition arose during the episode of patient care.

Related Australian Coding Standards (ACS)

- ACS 0048 *Condition Onset Flag*
- ACS 0011 *Intervention not performed or cancelled*
- ACS 0019 *Intervention abandoned, interrupted or not completed*
- ACS 0234 *Contiguous sites*
- ACS 1551 *Obstetric Perineal lacerations/grazes.*