

CCAQ Coding Advice

U91 Syndrome – Q0476

Query:

This query seeks clarification of the application of the new U91 Syndrome code for clinical diagnosis such as red man syndrome or refeeding syndrome.

ACS 0005 SYNDROMES

A syndrome is a group of signs and symptoms resulting from a common cause, or appearing in combination, to present a clear picture of a disease or inherited abnormality (Mosby 2009).

Many rare syndromes are not classified in ICD-10-AM to one single code. Clinical coders may need to research and/or seek clinical clarification to determine the manifestations of unclassified syndromes, to assist with code assignment.

CLASSIFICATION

Where there is no single ICD-10-AM code to classify all the elements of a syndrome, assign:

- codes for the manifestations that are relevant for the patient, and meet the criteria in ACS 0001 *Principal diagnosis* and ACS 0002 *Additional diagnoses*

and

- U91 *Syndrome, not elsewhere classified*, as an additional diagnosis to flag that the manifestations are related to a syndrome.

As per the standard where there is no single code to classify all elements of a syndrome code the manifestations + the U91 code. Regarding the refeeding syndrome, do we code all the treated electrolyte imbalances + the U91?

Advice:

Effective: 1 December 2019 - Advice is CURRENT and remains as is/ unchanged.

First review: December 2019 as CCAQ query 06-1219; latest review: March 2022.

CCAQ agreed the correct approach was to code out the manifestations for any syndrome that meet ACS 0001 and ACS 0002 and code the U91 syndrome code as an additional diagnosis code to identify that there is a syndrome attached to these manifestations.

CCAQ noted this query related to all syndromes in general, not specifically red man or refeeding syndromes.