



Femoral Neck Fracture - It's what aches today!

Some days I feel like there's not enough desk space - with a laptop, anatomy book, all the coding books, notepads, highlighters, and oh my gosh- don't forget the coffee mug- you get the point. Right? What does this have to do with femoral neck fractures? Lots! When it fractures due to an injury, finding the most specific diagnosis code could be a challenge. So break out that 4" thick diagnosis book, grab that anatomy book (or favorite internet search site), and pull up a chair. This article is all about femoral neck fracture coding due to an injury. *"But what about pathological fractures?"* you ask. Not today-sorry. There's not enough coffee nor desk space- one issue at a time, please.

Documentation verbiage can vary so look for anything tangible such as an anatomical description or even straight-forward coding verbiage. Below is sample verbiage that may be helpful:

- Epiphysis (of the upper femur for this article)
- Midcervical
- Base of neck
- Was the femoral head involved (that's a whole other coding article)

	Epiphysis	Midcervical	Base of neck
Anatomical location	Femoral Head - See femoral head fracture code.	Mid-section of neck	Bottom portion of neck
Sample Verbiage	Capital fracture	Transcervical fracture	Basicervical fracture
Delbet Classification* <small>*Type IV not listed; intertrochanteric fracture</small>	Type I (through the epiphyseal)	Type II	Type III

Diagnosis coding rules state to select the highest specific code available. If not, coders are left with... *[whispers.]*...an "unspecified" diagnosis code. As I look over my shoulder for the coding police on that last comment, it's always good advice when in doubt, "Ask, don't assume." Knowing what you don't know & when to query the provider.

And, one last mention- don't forget to look for these lovely detail nuggets in the report as well:

- Open - Closed - Non-Union - Malunion
- Healing - Delayed healing - Left or Right - Sequela (aka late effect)
- Displaced vs Non-displaced

Garden Classification		
Non-Displaced	Type I	Type II
Displaced	Type III	Type IV



If you'd like more info on the pathological fracture coding or if your team is needing a little assistance, please reach out to us at contact@beyondorthocoding.com. Let our team help your team.

And Happy Coding!!!