

## Coding ICD-10 for Cornea

BY SUE VICCHILLI, DDT, OCS, ACADEMY DIRECTOR OF CODING AND REIMBURSEMENT,  
AND JENNY EDGAR, CPC, CPCO, OCS, ACADEMY CODING SPECIALIST

It's true. When it comes to the cornea (with the exception of dystrophies), there are 3 ICD-10 codes for every ICD-9 code. You'll find these codes in chapter 7 of ICD-10; look for the section titled Disorders of Sclera, Cornea, Iris, and Ciliary Body (H15-H22).

### Code for Laterality

Except for dystrophies, corneal ICD-10 codes have a digit for laterality:

- 1 for the right eye
- 2 for the left eye
- 3 for both eyes.

**Example.** If you're coding for exposure keratoconjunctivitis, you would use H16.211 if the condition is present in the right eye, H16.212 if in the left, and H16.213 if in both.

**Tip.** For nonelectronic superbills, you can represent all laterality with a single line—e.g., H16.21 1 2 3. (So, for example, if the diagnosis was exposure keratoconjunctivitis of the left eye, you would circle the 2—H16.21 1(2)3.)

### Some Commonly Used Codes

In these examples, report laterality by replacing the dash with a 1, 2, or 3.

There are 7 types of scleritis:

- H15.00- *Unspecified scleritis*
- H15.01- *Anterior scleritis*
- H15.02- *Brawny scleritis*
- H15.03- *Posterior scleritis*
- H15.04- *Scleritis with corneal involvement*

- H15.05- *Scleromalacia perforans*
  - H15.09- *Other scleritis*
- There are 3 types of episcleritis:
- H15.10- *Unspecified episcleritis*
  - H15.11- *Episcleritis periodica fugax*
  - H15.12- *Nodular episcleritis*

And there are 8 types of ulcers:

- H16.00- *Unspecified corneal ulcer*
- H16.01- *Central corneal ulcer*
- H16.02- *Ring corneal ulcer*
- H16.03- *Corneal ulcer with hypopyon*
- H16.04- *Marginal corneal ulcer*
- H16.05- *Mooren's corneal ulcer*
- H16.06- *Mycotic corneal ulcer*
- H16.07- *Perforated corneal ulcer*

**Tip.** If you are using a nonelectronic superbill, it is best to identify the types of diagnoses that are seen most frequently and add them—rather than adding all options—to the superbill. If you're using EHRs, see if your EHR system will allow the practice's physicians to establish libraries of their most frequently seen diagnoses.

### Dystrophies

ICD-10's section for hereditary corneal dystrophies lists 7 conditions. Each has only 1 code; no laterality is needed.

- H18.50 *Unspecified hereditary corneal dystrophies*
- H18.51 *Endothelial corneal dystrophy (Fuchs' dystrophy)*
- H18.52 *Epithelial (juvenile) corneal dystrophy*
- H18.53 *Granular corneal dystrophy*

- H18.54 *Lattice corneal dystrophy*
- H18.55 *Macular corneal dystrophy*
- H18.59 *Other hereditary corneal dystrophies*

### Excludes1 Notes

Excludes1 Notes flag conditions that can't be billed in the same eye at the same patient encounter. For example, M35.01 *Sjögren's syndrome* isn't payable with H16.22 *Keratoconjunctivitis sicca*. Similarly, H1.21 *Acute toxic conjunctivitis* is not payable with T26- *Burn and corrosion confined to eye and adnexa*.

### Injury and Trauma

T15.0- *Corneal foreign body*, T15.1- *Conjunctival foreign body*, and T26.1- *Burn of cornea and conjunctival sac* must be submitted as 7-character codes, with the final character being an A (if an initial encounter), D (subsequent encounter), or S (sequela). As these codes are listed as 5-character codes (with the 5th character indicating laterality), an X must act as a placeholder in the 6th position so that A, D, or S can be added as the 7th character (e.g., T15.01XA).

### More Online

A cornea ICD-10 reference guide, along with guides for other subspecialties, can be found at [www.aao.org/icd10](http://www.aao.org/icd10) (click on "Resources and Seminars"). Thanks to David B. Glasser, MD, for his contribution to this resource. ■