

California Department of Public Health
Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Program

Use of ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes to “Flag” Post-operative Patients for Further Evaluation of Possible SSI

CDPH expects all California hospitals to use diagnosis “flag” codes for SSI surveillance. Use of these codes for identifying patient records for further review demonstrate as much as a 50% improvement in SSI case finding, especially for identifying SSI that occur during the index surgical admission and may not be picked up by other surveillance methods. Using ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes help detect SSI when a culture is not done or there is no return to surgery. Remember when using these ICD-10 diagnosis codes, they identify cases that may indicate infection and flag which medical records to review to confirm or rule out SSI.

Use of the flag codes should not replace other SSI surveillance methods already in place. You should continue existing SSI surveillance efforts, especially those aimed to identify post-operative patients who are readmitted to the hospital and SSI that occur post-discharge.

Try to complete flag code review timely. Waiting until 40 days after the end of each month’s procedures means you may not identify or act on SSI that occur in surgeries performed at the beginning of a month until more than 8 weeks later. Develop a process to review weekly or biweekly for more timely surveillance and to more easily meet CDPH end-of-quarter reporting deadlines.

INSTRUCTIONS for using post-operative ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes for SSI surveillance:

1. Ask your billing or medical records department to generate lists of patients that underwent each of the 28 NHSN procedures reportable by California law. Be sure to produce a separate list for each specific surgery type (i.e. one list for colon surgery, one for abdominal hysterectomy, etc.). Refer to NHSN protocols for updated ICD-10-PCS/CPT procedure code lists.
2. Ask your billing or medical records department to use these lists to further screen each surgical patient record to identify ICD-10 diagnosis codes that might be indicative of a post-operative infection (below). Screen for these codes during the index surgical admission and any readmission up to
 - 40 days after surgery for those procedures requiring 30-day surveillance per NHSN protocol
 - 100 days after surgery for those procedures requiring 90-day surveillance per NHSN protocol
3. The lists generated will serve to “flag” patient records for chart review to look for SSI. To assist you in chart review, the generated list of flagged patient records should include:
 - Patient name
 - ICD-10-CM diagnosis code that flagged the record
 - Original procedure date
 - Discharge date
 - Date of re-admission

For questions, please contact your designated HAI Program Liaison IP or email HAIPogram@cdph.ca.gov

NHSN Procedure Category*	ICD-10 Diagnosis Flag Code
AAA	T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS, T82.7XXA, T82.7XXD, T82.7XXS, T85.79XA, T85.79XD, T85.79XS
APPY	K63.0, K63.2, K65.0, K65.1, K68.19, L03.319, T81.31XA, T81.31XD, T81.31XS, T81.32XA, T81.32XD, T81.32XS, T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS, T81.83XA, T81.83XD, T81.83XS
BILI	K65.0, K65.1, K68.19, L03.319, T81.31XA, T81.31XD, T81.31XS, T81.32XA, T81.32XD, T81.32XS, T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS, T81.83XA, T81.83XD, T81.83XS
CARD	J85.3, L03.319, M86.18, M86.28, T81.31XA, T81.31XD, T81.31XS, T81.32XA, T81.32XD, T81.32XS, T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS, T82.6XXA, T82.6XXD, T82.6XXS, T82.7XXA, T82.7XXD, T82.7XXS
CBGB & CBGC	J85.3, L03.319, M86.18, M86.28, T81.31XA, T81.31XD, T81.31XS, T81.32XA, T81.32XD, T81.32XS, T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS, T82.6XXA, T82.6XXD, T82.6XXS, T82.7XXA, T82.7XXD, T82.7XXS
CHOL	K65.0, K65.1, K68.19, L03.319, T81.31XA, T81.31XD, T81.31XS, T81.32XA, T81.32XD, T81.32XS, T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS, T81.83XA, T81.83XD, T81.83XS
COLO	K63.0, K63.2, K65.0, K65.1, K68.19, K94.02, K94.12, L03.319, T81.31XA, T81.31XD, T81.31XS, T81.32XA, T81.32XD, T81.32XS, T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS
CSEC	K65.0, K65.1, L03.319, T81.31XA, T81.31XD, T81.31XS, T81.32XA, T81.32XD, T81.32XS, T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS

NHSN Procedure Category*	ICD-10 Diagnosis Flag Code
FUSN	T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS, T85.79XA, T85.79XD, T85.79XS
FX	T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS, T84.50XA, T84.50XD, T84.50XS, T84.60XA, T84.60XD, T84.60XS, T84.7XXA, T84.7XXD, T84.7XXS, T85.79XA, T85.79XD, T85.79XS
GAST	K65.0, K65.1, K68.19, L03.319, T81.31XA, T81.31XD, T81.31XS, T81.32XA, T81.32XD, T81.32XS, T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS, T81.83XA, T81.83XD, T81.83XS
HPRO	T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS, T84.50XA, T84.50XD, T84.50XS, T84.60XA, T84.60XD, T84.60XS, T84.7XXA, T84.7XXD, T84.7XXS, T85.79XA, T85.79XD, T85.79XS
HTP	T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS
HYST	K65.0, K65.1, L03.319, T81.31XA, T81.31XD, T81.31XS, T81.32XA, T81.32XD, T81.32XS, T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS
KPRO	T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS, T84.50XA, T84.50XD, T84.50XS, T84.60XA, T84.60XD, T84.60XS, T84.7XXA, T84.7XXD, T84.7XXS, T85.79XA, T85.79XD, T85.79XS
KTP	T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS
LAM	T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS
LTP	T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS
NEPH	T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS

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OVRY	K65.0, K65.1, L03.319, T81.31XA, T81.31XD, T81.31XS, T81.32XA, T81.32XD, T81.32XS, T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS
PACE	L03.319, T81.31XA, T81.31XD, T81.31XS, T81.32XA, T81.32XD, T81.32XS, T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS, T82.6XXA, T82.6XXD, T82.6XXS, T82.7XXA, T82.7XXD, T82.7XXS
REC	K63.0, K63.2, K65.0, K65.1, K68.19, K94.02, K94.12, L03.319 T81.31XA, T81.31XD, T81.31XS, T81.32XA, T81.32XD, T81.32XS, T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS, T81.83XA, T81.83XD, T81.83XS
SB	K63.0, K63.2, K65.0, K65.1, K68.19, K94.02, K94.12, L03.319 T81.31XA, T81.31XD, T81.31XS, T81.32XA, T81.32XD, T81.32XS, T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS, T81.83XA, T81.83XD, T81.83XS
SPLE	K65.0, K65.1, K68.19, L03.319, T81.31XA, T81.31XD, T81.31XS, T81.32XA, T81.32XD, T81.32XS, T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS, T81.83XA, T81.83XD, T81.83XS
THOR	T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS
VHYS	K65.0, K65.1, L03.319 T81.31XA, T81.31XD, T81.31XS, T81.32XA, T81.32XD, T81.32XS, T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS
XLAP	K65.0, K65.1, K68.19, L03.319, T81.31XA, T81.31XD, T81.31XS, T81.32XA, T81.32XD, T81.32XS, T81.40XA, T81.40XD, T81.40XS, T81.41XA, T81.41XD, T81.41XS, T81.42XA, T81.42XD, T81.42XS, T81.43XA, T81.43XD, T81.43XS, T81.44XA, T81.44XD, T81.44XS, T81.49XA, T81.49XD, T81.49XS, T81.83XA, T81.83XD, T81.83XS