Embolization of Uterine Artery

Issue: There is not a unique ICD-9-CM procedure code to identify uterine artery embolization. Should a new code be created to describe this procedure?

New Technology Application? No

FDA Approval? Not applicable

Current coding: There is confusion among coders on correct code assignment for uterine artery embolization procedures. This issue has been addressed in AHA’s Coding Clinic for ICD-9-CM however; comments continue to be received regarding the advice provided to assign code 99.29, Injection or infusion of other therapeutic or prophylactic substance, versus code 39.79, Other endovascular procedures on other vessels. As neither one of these existing procedure codes clearly describes that a uterine artery embolization was performed, should a new code be created to uniquely identify this procedure?

Coding options:
Option 1. Do not create a new code. Continue to use existing code 99.29, Injection or infusion of other therapeutic or prophylactic substance, to identify uterine artery embolization.

Option 2. Create a new code to specifically identify uterine artery embolization was performed. The new code could be placed in the Operations on the Female Genital Organs section of the code book.

New code 68.24 Uterine artery embolization [UAE]
   Includes that with or without coils

Add exclusion term 39.79 Other endovascular procedures on other vessels
Add exclusion term Excludes: uterine artery embolization (68.24)

Option 3. Create two new codes that specifically identify uterine artery embolization with and without coils. Add exclusion terms to codes 39.79 and 99.29.

New code 68.24 Uterine artery embolization [UAE] with coils

Add exclusion term 39.79 Other endovascular procedures on other vessels
Add exclusion term Excludes: uterine artery embolization with coils (68.24)

New code 68.25 Uterine artery embolization [UAE] without coils

Add exclusion term 99.29 Injection or infusion of other therapeutic or prophylactic substance
Add exclusion term Excludes: uterine artery embolization without coils (68.25)

**CMS Recommendation:** Option 3, create two new codes as stated above.

**Interim coding advice:** Continue to use code 99.29, Injection or infusion of other therapeutic or prophylactic substance, for uterine artery embolization procedures by injection of a substance. Assign code 39.79, Other endovascular procedures on other vessels, for any uterine artery embolization procedures using coils.