# Coding Tip Sheet: ICD-10-PCS Approaches

The fifth character defines the approach, or the technique used to reach the procedure site. There are seven different approach values in the Medical and Surgical section.

<table>
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<th>Body System</th>
<th>Root Operation</th>
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### Approaches:

0 – Open: Cutting through the skin or mucous membrane and any other body layers necessary to expose the site of the procedure.

3 – Percutaneous: Entry, by puncture or minor incision, of instrumentation through the skin or mucous membrane any other body layers necessary to reach the site of the procedure.

4 – Percutaneous Endoscopic: Entry, by puncture or minor incision, of instrumentation through the skin or mucous membrane any other body layers necessary to reach and visualize the site of the procedure.

7 – Via Natural or Artificial Opening: Entry of instrumentation through a natural or artificial external opening to reach and visualize the site of the procedure.

8 – Via Natural or Artificial Opening Endoscopic: Entry of instrumentation through a natural or artificial external opening to reach and visualize the site of the procedure.

F - Via Natural or Artificial Opening With Percutaneous Endoscopic Assistance: Entry of instrumentation through a natural or artificial external opening and entry, by puncture or minor incision, of instrumentation through the skin or mucous membrane and any other body layers necessary to aid in the performance of the procedure.

X – External: Procedures performed directly on the skin or mucous membrane and procedures performed indirectly by the application of external force through the skin or mucous membrane.

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