Documentation Dissection

PREOPERATIVE DIAGNOSIS: Pericardial effusion

POSTOPERATIVE DIAGNOSIS: Pericardial effusion

COMPLICATIONS: None

CONDITION: Stable

OPERATIVE FINDINGS: Large purulent pericardial effusion, sent for Gram stain, culture, and cytology

PROCEDURE: With the patient under general anesthesia and endotracheal intubation, after a radial arterial line was placed, the patient was positioned and prepped and draped in a sterile manner. A subxiphoid incision was made with dissection to the linea alba, which was incised. The pericardium was grasped and incised, and upon incision of the pericardium, purulence emanated from the pericardial sac under pressure. This was evacuated and sent for Gram stain and culture. A window of pericardium was excised and a portion sent for culture and permanent section. Additional cytology was sent from the remaining pericardial effluent. A chest tube was placed, the incision closed in layers. The patient tolerated the procedure well. All counts were correct.

What are the CPT® and ICD-10-CM codes reported?

CPT® Code: 33025

ICD-10-CM Code: I31.39

Rationales:

CPT®: The pericardial window procedure was performed to resolve pericardial effusion. Based on our identified key elements a code selection will be made from the Pericardium category of CPT®. The note documents a pericardial window procedure. The CPT® Index look for Pericardial Window/Creation/for drainage 32659, 33025. Due to the operative note not specifying the procedure as a surgical thoracoscopy (Video-assisted thoracic surgery [VATS]), the appropriate code selection is 33025 Creation of pericardial window or partial resection for drainage.