
Documentation Dissection

Nasal FB removal Documentation

History: 3 year-old presented with foreign body to right nostril ^[1].

Procedure: I initially attempted removal of the foreign body through positive pressure. I occluded the patient's left nostril and placed a pediatric ventilation mask over the patient's mouth and then instilled several forceful breaths. Unfortunately, this was unsuccessful. I then used some topical cocaine solution ^[2] with an atomizer spray for local anesthesia and vasoconstriction in the right nostril. I then used a tiny alligator clamp ^[3] to snare the object under direct visualization and removed a coin-shaped yellow plastic object approximately 1 cm in diameter and 2 mm in thickness. The patient tolerated the procedure quite well. There were no complications, no blood loss. Inspection, after removal, revealed no trauma in the nostril. The patient was discharged in no obvious distress with her parents.

Final Impression: Foreign body in right nostril ^[4].

^[1] The reason for the encounter.

^[2] Topical anesthesia not separately reportable.

^[3] Foreign body removed with clamp.

^[4] Diagnosis to report for the encounter.

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

CPT® Code: 30300-RT

ICD-10-CM Code: T17.1XXA

Rationales:

CPT®: This is an uncomplicated procedure not requiring general anesthesia. The use of topical anesthesia is included in the procedure and not separately reported. The procedure was performed in the physician's office. In the CPT Index locate Removal/ Foreign Body/Nose and you're directed to 30300. A review of the code description confirms this is the correct code. Append modifier RT in removing the foreign body from the right nostril.

ICD-10-CM: The diagnosis is Foreign Body to Right Nares. In the ICD-10-CM Alphabetic Index locate Foreign body/entering through orifice/nose and you're directed to T17.1-. The Tabular List confirms this is the correct code for foreign body in nostril or foreign body in nose NOS. This code category requires a 7th character to indicate the encounter. The 7th character must always be the 7th character in the data field. If a code that requires a 7th character is not 6 characters, a placeholder X must be used to fill in the empty characters. Code T17.1XXA is the correct code.