

pinpoint petechial rash noted on back, neck, and lower extremities. Patient cannot recall if he has been immunized against meningitis. A CBC, blood cultures, and PT, PTT are obtained. Blood culture is positive for *Neisseria meningitidis*.

Diagnosis: **Chronic meningococemia.**

#### ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Code(s)

A39.3 Chronic meningococemia

#### Coding Note(s)

The codes for meningococemia are listed in the ICD-10-CM Alphabetic Index under three main terms: Infection, Meningococemia, and Sepsis.

### Meningococcal Arthropathy

#### ICD-10-CM Coding and Documentation Requirements

Identify meningococcal arthropathy:

- Current/acute meningococcal arthritis
- Post-meningococcal arthritis

#### ICD-10-CM Code/Documentation

A39.83	Meningococcal arthritis
A39.84	Post-meningococcal arthritis

#### Documentation and Coding Example

Forty-four-year-old female presents with a chief complaint of right swollen, painful elbow. Patient states she was **acutely ill approximately 10 weeks ago** with fever, headache, nausea and vomiting. She was **diagnosed with meningococemia**, hospitalized and treated with antibiotics. She has continued to feel tired since the illness. On examination she is afebrile, HR 80, RR 14, BP 112/70. **Fingers and wrists bilaterally are slightly red and mildly swollen. Right elbow is erythematous, diffusely tender to palpation and warm to touch.** Patient complains of pain with active and passive ROM. A patchy erythematous macular rash is also noted on both lower extremities. Small amount of purulent appearing synovial fluid is aspirated from right elbow and sent to the lab for gram stain, culture, cell count and crystal analysis. Blood for CBC, Sed Rate drawn and sent to lab. **Synovial culture is positive for *Neisseria meningitidis*.**

Diagnosis: **Post-meningococcal arthritis.**

#### ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes:

A39.84 Post-meningococcal arthritis

#### Coding Note(s)

To locate the correct code in the ICD-10-CM Alphabetic Index for chronic or post-meningococcal arthritis, reference Arthritis, postmeningococcal. Only the code for current, acute meningococcal arthritis is listed under Arthritis, meningococcal or Arthritis, in (due to), Meningococcus.

### Septicemia

When the term “septicemia” is referenced in the Alphabetic Index, there is a cross-reference to “sepsis” when the documentation supports a diagnosis of sepsis. An unqualified diagnosis of septicemia would be reported with A41.9 Sepsis, unspecified organism, which has the alternate term septicemia NOS.

### Streptococcal Septicemia

Streptococcal sepsis (septicemia) is the most common form of sepsis. In ICD-9-CM, there is a single code for streptococcal septicemia. A second code is required for sepsis (995.91) or severe sepsis (995.92). For puerperal sepsis, code 038.0 is not reported. Instead, a code from subcategory 670.2 Puerperal sepsis is assigned along with a secondary code from subcategory 041.0 Streptococcus in conditions classified elsewhere and of unspecified site. In ICD-10-CM, Streptococcal sepsis must be identified as due to group A, group B, *S. pneumoniae*, other type, or unspecified type. Coding for streptococcal sepsis is also determined by whether the sepsis is documented as postprocedural; subsequent to immunization, infusion, transfusion, or other therapeutic injection; follows an abortion or ectopic or molar pregnancy; occurs during labor; or is documented as puerperal.

#### ICD-10-CM Coding and Documentation Requirements

Septicemia is no longer used as coding terminology.

For streptococcal sepsis designate agent:

- Group A
- Group B
- *S. pneumoniae*
- Other
- Unspecified

For severe sepsis assign a code from subcategory R65.2 and specify:

- With septic shock
- Without septic shock

For severe sepsis identify any acute organ dysfunction.

**Note:** A code from category A40 is reported as a secondary diagnosis to identify the specific bacterial agent for the following diagnoses:

- Postprocedural streptococcal sepsis (T81.4)
- Streptococcal sepsis during labor (O75.3)
- Streptococcal sepsis following abortion or ectopic or molar pregnancy (O03-O07, O08.0)
- Streptococcal sepsis following immunization (T88.0)
- Streptococcal sepsis following infusion, transfusion or therapeutic injection (T80.2)

For puerperal sepsis:

- Do not report the codes from category A40.
- Use code O85 as the principal diagnosis and B95.0, B95.1, B95.3, B95.4 or B95.5 as appropriate to identify the organism.