

Produced by the Military Health System (MHS) ICD-10 Integrated Project Team (IPT) & Defense Health Agency (DHA) Information Management (IM)

Zika Virus – We Have a Code for That

As you may be aware, the Zika virus outbreak has been generating national headlines as it continues to spread across the United States. The Zika virus is a flavivirus that causes flu-like symptoms in patients. Spread by the infected Aedes mosquitos, the virus poses a big risk to pregnant women and their unborn babies. It has recently been announced that Zika can be transmitted through sexual contact as well as the infected mosquitos.

Eleven states have reported travel-associated Zika virus cases, meaning that the virus was contracted while traveling in the known countries in which the virus is active. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), there have been no reported active virus transmissions in the U.S. Zika is a flavivirus that, in most cases, is not life threatening. Aside from causing the usual flu-like symptoms, those infected rarely experience more than a rash, joint pain, headaches, and muscular discomfort. The real danger of Zika lies in what it does to the unborn fetus of the pregnant women it infects, potentially causing microcephaly (abnormally small head/brain size).

While many people are aware of the Zika virus outbreak, what they may not know is that the Zika virus does not currently have its own unique ICD-10 code. Because the Zika virus does not have its own unique ICD-10 code, there have been many cases of reported confusion as to how, exactly, cases of the virus should be coded. Further adding to the problem is the fact that a Zika infection can have multiple outcomes, depending on the status of the infected individual. For this reason, there are multiple potential codes – one set for general patients, another set for those who are pregnant, and a third for an affected infant.

ICD-10 Code for individuals who have been infected with the Zika virus:

A92.8 – other specified mosquito-borne viral fevers

ICD-10 Codes for expectant mothers infected with the Zika virus:

O98.51 – Pregnancy, complicated by viral disease

O98.511 – 1st trimester

O98.512 – 2nd trimester

O98.513 – 3rd trimester

ICD-10 Coding for babies born with microcephaly due to mother being infected during pregnancy:

Q02 – Microcephaly

There is a code freeze for any new ICD-10 codes until October 2016 and it is unlikely that the CDC will update the code base for the Zika virus. Thus, while not the perfect code, the codes listed above are sufficient, especially when augmented through robust clinical documentation.

For more information, please contact: HIPAATCSImail@dha.mil

Or visit <http://health.mil/hipaatcsi>

For coding information, please contact the DHA Medical Coding Program Office: dha.ncr.business-spt.mbx.mcpointo@mail.mil

Or visit <http://health.mil/About-MHS/Defense-Health-Agency/Business-Support/Medical-Coding-Program-Office>

**ICD-10
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March 5-6

Las Vegas, NV

[http://www.ahima.org/
events/2016mar-
complexicd10-vegas](http://www.ahima.org/events/2016mar-complexicd10-vegas)

ICD-10-CM Workshop: Strengthening Your Coding Knowledge

March 7

Portland, OR

[http://www.ahima.org/
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Reinforcing the Essentials of ICD-10- CM/PCS Workshop

March 8-9

Portland, OR

[http://www.ahima.org/
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