

BC Diagnosis Code Updates Business Process

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The BC Diagnosis (Dx) Code set is regularly reviewed and updated based on surgeon utilization and/or the expressed need by provincial clinical groups.

Overview

BC Diagnosis codes were implemented in the Surgical Patient Registry (SPR) in 2010 to establish patient prioritization and wait time targets across BC.

- There are two subsets of BC Dx codes: **Adult and Pediatric**.
- Assignment of appropriate BC Dx codes, **based on patient age** at date of decision (ready, willing and able to proceed with surgery), is **vital for waitlist management** as target times differ between these two code-sets.
- For convenience, BC Dx codes are **segregated into specialties** so surgeons need only be concerned with the codes in their own specialty(s). When required, BC Dx codes from one specialty can be used by surgeons in other specialties.
- Each specialty has a priority-based **“Other” code** for use when an appropriate code does not currently exist. A free-text description of the patient condition / diagnosis is provided by the surgeon.

Update Process

Throughout the year, SPR reviews any new BC Dx code requests from surgeons or provincial groups, as well as the usage of “Other” code free-text descriptions (see schema next page). To ensure ongoing appropriateness of BC Dx code utilization, SPR monitors:

- Proper Adult or Pediatric BC Dx code assignment based on patient age at date of decision
- All use of ‘Other’ BC Dx codes. Discussion with clinical experts and associated surgeons to either adjust current code description / priority, or, if required, create a new BC Dx code.
- Any obvious appropriateness issues (eg: a booked C-section Dx code with an endoscopy case).

Any BC Dx code updates or changes are made annually with implementation on April 1.

More Information

Please email the BC Surgical Patient Registry at SPROffice@phsa.ca if you have any questions or comments. A full business summary process document can be received by emailing the SPR Office or your HA SPR Administrator.

Schema

