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DIAGNOSIS CODING TIP OF THE WEEK:

There are new pain codes in the 2007 ICD-9 book for acute pain and chronic pain. They start with 338 and need to have 4th and/or 5th digits added depending on the cause of the pain. These are great codes to use for post-op pain or pain due to trauma, also chronic pain syndrome is included in this group of codes. The code for generalized pain (780.96) is still a good one to use if the pain is localized, and unspecified.