# Molina Healthcare Coding Education New Guidelines – Pathologic Vertebral Fracture



Coding rules for pathologic vertebral fracture have recently changed. Again!

It is appropriate to diagnose pathologic vertebral fx when:

- First diagnosed no matter when it occurred
- The patient is on medication for the pain due to the pathologic fracture
- No longer can code when patient is simply on medication for the underlying condition (e.g. Fosamax, etc.)

## Remember the STAR quality measure requirements!

For a **newly** diagnosed pathologic fracture, a Dexa scan or medication must be initiated within 6 months of diagnosis.

### **Documentation Examples:**

Note must clearly link compression fracture and medication!

#### **Initial Dx:**

 Assessment: New finding of T12 compression fracture in patient with osteoporosis.

> ICD-10 Code: M80.88XA

*Plan:* Asymptomatic, continue Fosamax

#### Established Dx:

 Assessment: Vertebral compression fracture d/t osteoporosis.

**Plan:** Requires pain meds episodically, continue tyl. #3 prn.

#### Not on pain meds:

Aftercare of pathologic vertebral fracture

Assessment: Established path vertebral fx

> *ICD*-10 Code: M80.88XD

**Plan:** Asymptomatic, continue Fosamax

**Have Questions?** 

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