

Resistance to Antimicrobial Drugs

Why is the accurate coding of drug resistance codes so important? Why are codes in category Z16 Resistance to antimicrobial drugs now labeled as a CC? Why are we seeing many new technologies for treating or diagnosing infections?

First, our codes can aid in surveillance data tracking. The lack of surveillance tools has contributed to the underreporting of antimicrobial resistant infections.

For example, it would be improper to report a code Z16, - with the code that already identifies MSRA. Check out the guideline alert to aid in the proper use of the codes in category Z16.

Next, the resources required to treat and care for patients suffering from antimicrobial resistant superbugs is more intensive, including the need for stronger, different, or extra antibiotics.

Guideline Alert

Infections resistant to antibiotics

Many bacterial infections are resistant to current antibiotics. It is necessary to identify all infections documented as antibiotic resistant. Assign a code from category Z16, Resistance to antimicrobial drugs, following the infection code only if the infection code does not identify drug resistance.

Finally, the CDC reports drug-resistant bugs infect about 2.8 million people every year in the United States and kill about 35,000, representing a much larger public health threat than previously thought.

The new report estimates show that, on average, someone in the United States gets an antibiotic-resistant infection every 11 seconds, and every 15 minutes, someone dies.



Emerging, Serious, and Concerning Bacteria and Fungi

The CDC lists both emerging threats and long recognized threats. More information about these threats can be found at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/DrugResistance/Biggest-Threats.html>