

OPCS-4.10 Key Learning Points 2023

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OPCS-4.10 Key Learning Points

The Data Alliance Partnership Board (DAPB), acting under delegated authority from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, approved the OPCS Classification of Interventions and Procedures Version 4.10 (OPCS-4.10) for publication under Section 250 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 for NHS implementation on 1 April 2023. The Information Standards Notice (ISN) published on 1 November 2022 describes the mandate for NHS implementation on 1 April 2023 and is available at: [DAPB0084: OPCS Classification of Interventions and Procedures - NHS Digital](#)

This latest update to create OPCS-4.10 is based on requirements received via the OPCS-4 Request Submissions Portal to reflect current clinical practice which fall within the scope of the classification, and which will enable clinical coders to better reflect the intervention or procedure carried out due to the availability of more precise codes.

The main changes in the OPCS-4.9 classification are summarised as Key Learning Points below. The full list of changes within Volume 1 Tabular list and Volume 2 Alphabetical Index between OPCS-4.9 and OPCS-4.10 are contained within the [OPCS-4.9 to OPCS-4.10 Summary of Core Changes](#)

In addition, the most significant new or changed National Clinical Coding Standards are summarised below. The full Clinical Coding Standards must be viewed in the National Clinical Coding Standards OPCS-4 Reference Book 2023. Not all new codes or changes to codes require a clinical coding standard because they can be easily indexed and assigned by applying the four-step coding process.

The Summary of Changes section within the Reference Book lists all the changes that have been made in the document. Coders should review all the changes to the standards and guidance in order to ensure they are up to date with the current standards and that they are aware of all of the updates that have been made to the Reference Book.

The OPCS-4 Supplementary Information document has been updated with information about some of the new procedures.

Both the Reference Book and the Supplementary Information are available for download from [Delen](#).

Replacement of Consultant Episode with Care Professional Admitted Care Episode

Within the introduction reference to consultant episode (hospital provider) has been changed to care professional admitted care episode to reflect changes within the [NHS Data Model and Dictionary](#). Throughout the reference book 'episode' is used in preference to care professional admitted care episode.

Rules of OPCS-4

PRule 8: Surgical eponyms has been updated to make it clear that Section II Alphabetical Index of Surgical Eponyms within Volume II - Alphabetical Index must not be used to assign codes. Coders must refer to the procedural information so that code assignment fully reflects the procedure performed. The surgical eponym section of OPCS-4 is only retained for legacy purposes.

General Coding Standards and Guidance

The examples following standard **PGCS10: Coding endoscopic procedures** have been updated as a result of the changes to the includes and excludes notes at **H20-H25**

New standard **PGCS20: Procedures performed for haemostasis** explains that when coagulation and/or cauterisation is performed as a means of haemostasis following the extirpation of a lesion, then the cauterisation/coagulation must not be coded in addition.

Chapter A

Standard **PCSA2: Pain relief procedures** has been updated and now includes the codes required for medial branch block, denervation of medial nerve and denervation of facet joint.

A new code has been created in OPCS-4.10 to classify revision of cubital tunnel release at **A69.4**.

Additional codes for other types of microsurgical repair of peripheral nerves have been created at category **A71 Other microsurgical repair of peripheral nerve**.

Chapter B

Breast prostheses that are placed into the sub-pectoral space have been added as an inclusion term at codes **B30.1 Insertion of prosthesis for breast NEC**, **B30.3 Removal of prosthesis for breast NEC** and **B30.4 Renewal of prosthesis for breast NEC**. New OPCS-4.10 codes have been created for breast prosthesis placed into the pre-pectoral space at codes **B30.5 Insertion of breast prosthesis into pre-pectoral space**, **B30.6 Renewal of breast prosthesis in pre-pectoral space** and **B30.7 Removal of breast prosthesis from pre-pectoral space**, see [OPCS-4.9 to OPCS-4.10 Summary of Core Changes](#).

A number of new codes have been created to classify breast reconstructions using various different types of flaps.

New standard **PCSB3: Evacuation of post-operative haematoma from breast** has been introduced.

Chapter D

New inclusion term has been added at code **D01.3 Excision of preauricular abnormality** to clarify the code is used to classify excision of congenital preauricular lesion(s).

Preauricular lesions that are not congenital are coded to **D02.1 Excision of lesion of external ear**.

Standard **PCSD3: Combined approach tympanoplasty (D14.4)** has been retired as combined tympanoplasty using graft has been added as a new inclusion note at code **D14.4**, examples of these procedures have been included at standard **PGCS12: Coding of graft and harvest of sites other than skin**.

Chapter E

In the guidance section of standard **PCSE6: Nasendoscopy** the following paragraph has been deleted; ‘*The note, ‘*Includes: Nasendoscopy NEC*’ at **E65.9 Diagnostic endoscopic examination of nasal cavity** should be disregarded’, as the includes note has been deleted from code **E65.9** in OPCS-4.10.

Standard **PCSE5: Invasive ventilation with tracheostomy (E85.1)** has been updated to reflect the new OPCS-4.10 note ‘*Use a supplementary code for concurrent prone positioning of the patient during ventilation (O48.1)*’ which has been added at category **E85 Ventilation support**.

The *Note: Use as a secondary code when associated with excision of tonsil (F34)* at codes **E20.1 Total adenoidectomy** and **E20.4 Suction diathermy adenoidectomy** has been updated to reflect new OPCS-4 category **F35 Intracapsular excision of tonsil**.

New codes have been created **E32.1 Endoscopic cricoid split** and **E33.7 Cricoid split** that classify cricoid split procedures.

The surgical abbreviation EBUS-TBNA in **Section III Alphabetical Index of Surgical Abbreviations** has been amended to show correct code **E63.4**.

Chapter F

To reflect the terminology used throughout OPCS-4 the term ‘autobone graft’ used in the code description at code **F11.2** has been amended to **Augmentation of alveolar ridge using autograft of bone**.

Codes **F63.1**, **F63.2**, **F63.4** and **F63.4** in OPCS-4.9 classified denture and obturator procedures these are different types of prosthesis and have been separated out, obturator procedures are now classified at new OPCS-4.10 codes **F64.1 Creation of impression for obturator**, **F64.2 Fitting of obturator**, **F64.3 Adjustment of obturator**, **F64.4 Repair of obturator**. A full explanation can be found in [OPCS-4.9 to OPCS-4.10 Summary of Core Changes](#).

New codes and index entries have been created to classify a number of orthodontic procedures including fixed and movable orthodontic and functional orthodontic appliances and retainers and intraoral appliances.

Chapter G

Code **G80.2 Wireless capsule endoscopy** has been retired, capsule endoscopy and wireless capsule endoscopy are now classified at new code **U17.7 Wireless capsule endoscopy of digestive tract**. A full explanation on the retirement of code **G80.2** can be found in the [OPCS-4.9 to OPCS-4.10 Summary of Core Changes](#)

Standard **PCSG5: Coagulation of bleeding lesions(s) of upper gastrointestinal tract (G20.1 and G46.2)** has been retired because of the addition of new OPCS-4.10 codes **G20.2 Fibreoptic endoscopic coagulation of bleeding lesion of oesophagus using haemostatic spray**, and **G46.3 Fibreoptic endoscopic coagulation of bleeding lesion of**

upper gastrointestinal tract using haemostatic spray. Coders should refer to new standard **PGCS20: Procedures performed for haemostasis** to ensure coagulation and cauterisation are not coded when performed to achieve haemostasis following extirpation of a lesion.

Chapter H

Changes have been made to the includes and excludes notes at categories **H20 Endoscopic extirpation of lesion of colon**, **H21 Other therapeutic endoscopic operations on colon**, **H22 Diagnostic endoscopic examination of colon**, **H23 Endoscopic extirpation of lesion of lower bowel using fiberoptic sigmoidoscope**, **H24 Other therapeutic endoscopic operations on lower bowel using fiberoptic sigmoidoscope** and **H25 Diagnostic endoscopic examination of lower bowel using fiberoptic sigmoidoscope**. For list of full changes see [OPCS-4.9 to OPCS-4.10 Summary of Core Changes](#).

New categories have been added at **H72.-** and **H73.-** for High Resolution Anoscopy (HRA).

Chapter J

New standard **PChSJ1: Operations on blood vessel of liver** has been introduced to clarify that codes in Chapter L may be used in preference to Chapter J when coding an operation on a blood vessel of the liver and a specific code in Chapter J does not exist.

Chapter K

Various standards have been updated throughout Chapter K to reflect the use of code **Y37.2 Introduction of substance into organ using drug-eluting balloon NOC** where a drug eluting balloon (DEB) has been used during these procedures.

Chapter L

PChSL5: Angioplasty and drug-eluting balloons has been deleted and replaced by **PCSY15: Drug-eluting balloons (Y37.2)** because Y37.2 may be used with codes outside of Chapter L.

Chapter M

Standard **PCSM4: Cystoscopy with cystodiathermy and biopsy of the bladder lesion (M42.2)** has been deleted and replaced by **PCSM12: Cystoscopy with cystodiathermy** to clarify the use of cystodiathermy must not be coded when used as a means of haemostasis to reflect **PGCS20: Procedures performed for haemostasis**. Cystoscopy with cystodiathermy and biopsy of the bladder lesion would still be coded in line with **PGCS10: Coding endoscopic procedures**

Standard **PCSM7: Injection and removal of bulking agent for stress urinary incontinence (M56.3 and M66.3)** has been retired as new index entries have been added into OPCS-4.10 for the injection of bulking agents and new removal codes have been created at **M56.4 Endoscopic removal of inert substance from outlet of female bladder**, **M58.3 Removal of inert substance from outlet of female bladder** and **M66.4 Endoscopic removal of inert substance from outlet of male bladder**.

See also [Appendix 1](#).

Chapter P

Code **P15.3 Repair of hymen** has been retired. A full explanation can be found in the [OPCS-4.9 to OPCS-4.10 Summary of Core Changes](#). **Standard PCSS4: Repair/reconstruction of hymen and Hymenoplasty** has been updated to reflect the retirement of the code.

Standard **PCSP5: Oversewing of exposed vaginal mesh** has been retired as the procedure is now coded using new OPCS-4.10 code **P29.6 Oversewing of mesh in vagina**, the code includes oversewing of eroded or exposed mesh or tape in the vagina.

See also [Appendix 1](#).

Chapter S

The guidance referring to the '**Note**' at the beginning of **Chapter S** has been amended to reflect the deletion of **T32 Abdominal wall** from the note.

New standard **PChSS2: Coding skin flaps and harvests** has been introduced to clarify how skin flaps should be coded

Standard **PCSS1: Unspecified excision of skin lesion (S06.9)** has been retired.

Codes **S06.5** and **S06.9** have new inclusion notes in OPCS-4.10 for **wide excision of lesion of skin of head or neck NEC** and **wide excision of lesion of skin NEC**. Information about wide and wider skin excision(s) can be found in **Supplementary Information OPCS-4.10**.

Chapter T

The inclusion and exclusion notes at categories **T41.3 Freeing of adhesions of peritoneum NEC**, **T41.5 Freeing of extensive adhesions of peritoneum** and **T42.3 Endoscopic division of adhesions of peritoneum** have been improved so that it is clearer how the codes should be used.

Chapter U

New standard **PCSU10: Wireless Capsule Endoscopy (U17.7)** has been introduced to explain the site codes that must be used with new code **U17.7 Wireless capsule endoscopy of digestive tract** to indicate the type of wireless capsule endoscopy.

Chapter W

The term 'semilunar cartilage' used within categories **W70 Open operations on semilunar cartilage** and **W82 Therapeutic endoscopic operations on semilunar cartilage** has been replaced with the term 'meniscus of knee joint' this is to represent current clinical practice. A full explanation can be found in the [OPCS-4.9 to OPCS-4.10 Summary of Core Changes](#).

New codes are available for meniscus replacement at **W70.4 Open total replacement of meniscus of knee joint**, **W70.5 Open partial replacement of meniscus of knee joint**, **W82.4 Endoscopic total replacement of meniscus of knee joint**, **W82.5 Endoscopic partial replacement of meniscus of knee joint**, the examples at standard **PChSW2 Arthroscopic procedures** have been updated to reflect the addition of the new arthroscopic replacement codes.

Standard **PCSW3: Harvest of bone marrow for autologous transplant (W35.8)** has been deleted because this standard is covered in **PCSX8: Bone marrow transplantation and peripheral blood stem cell transplantation**.

Standard **PCSW12 Osteotomy of the foot** has been updated to reflect new OPCS-4.10 code **W28.6 Insertion of intramedullary fixation of bone NEC**.

New codes have been created for the revision of one component of hybrid hip, shoulder and knee replacements. The Notes at each code indicate that an additional site code is added to specify the component that has been revised.

Chapter X

Standard **PCSX23: High flow nasal oxygen (X52.8)** has been retired as this procedure is now coded using new OPCS-4.10 code **X52.2 High flow nasal oxygen therapy**.

Chapter Y

The code range within standard **PCSY6: Approach to organ (Y45-Y52 and Y74-Y76)** and where the standard is mentioned elsewhere has been amended to include new OPCS-4.10 category **Y77 Other approach to organ**.

A new extended category has been added at **Y72 Other late operations**, the title of standard **PGCS4** along with the content of the standard have been updated to reflect new OPCS-4.10 codes **Y72.1 Failed robotic minimal access approach converted to open** and **Y72.2 Failed video-assisted minimal access approach converted to open**.

Chapter Z

The spelling of the term 'Ulna' used at code **Z09.4** has been amended to **Z09.4 Ulnar nerve**.

Appendix 1

Many of the new codes and index entries within Chapters M, P and Q have been authored so that the procedures performed for pelvic organ prolapse and stress urinary incontinence listed in **Appendix 1: Procedures performed for pelvic organ prolapse and stress urinary incontinence** can be specifically identified.

The guidance table **Appendix 1: Procedures performed for pelvic organ prolapse and stress urinary incontinence** has been updated to reflect the creation of new OPCS-4.10 codes and addition of Index trails. The table also contains guidance on some procedures that have been paused as a result of recommendations made by the Independent Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Review.