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Maxim Health Information Services is a division of Maxim Healthcare Services, the largest privately held healthcare staffing company in the nation. As part of a large business enterprise and a [leader in the industry](#), MHIS can help take your career to the next level. Now more than ever, hospitals and medical facilities understand the importance of hiring HIM staff to increase their bottom line. This has opened the door to many new [career opportunities](#) in the health information industry. MHIS staffs

Welcome to the July issue of Maxim Coding CornerSM! As a leader in the HIM industry, [Maxim Health Information Services](#) is committed to providing you with updates on coding-related topics that matter to you.

This month, we are focusing on coding for fracture care, a topic that can be confusing when coding. Read below to learn key facts about fracture care coding, and be sure to visit our [online job board](#) to search for positions nationwide in this coding specialty and many others. Our jobs are updated frequently, so check back often to view new opportunities!

Basic Rule of Fracture Coding

The most important thing to remember about fracture care is that the type of fracture does not have any coding correlation with the type of treatment that is provided. In other words, you can have an open/compound fracture that is treated by closed means, or vice versa.

Types of Fracture Treatment

CLOSED TREATMENT: The fracture site is not surgically opened (exposed to the external environment and directly visible). Closed treatments can be with or without manipulation and/or traction.

OPEN TREATMENT: The fracture is both surgically opened and visible (internal fixation may or may not be used), or the fractured bone is opened remotely from the fracture site in order to insert an intramedullary (IM) nail across the fracture site. Keep in mind that in order to code the open treatment, a surgical opening needs to be made.

PERCUTANEOUS SKELETAL FIXATION: The Physician places a fixation across the fracture site, usually under x-ray imaging, but the fracture fragments are not visible.

Confusion tends to arise when determining if the treatment is open or percutaneous. Remember: In open treatment, the fracture will be directly visible and/or an IM implant will be placed. The fracture will NOT be directly visible and no IM implant will be used in percutaneous fixation.

Fracture Coding Example

positions for on-site coders, remote coders, auditors, and more.

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The coding of femoral neck fracture treatment tends to be the most perplexing. In order for the Physician to place the percutaneous fixation, he or she must make a few small stab incisions. Then, using fluoroscopy to guide placement, the Physician will place the screws. The creation of the small stab incisions does not make it an open procedure. In these cases, the Physician does not directly visualize the fracture or place an IM implant.

To learn more about Maxim Health Information Services and fracture care coding, visit us [online](#) or call 866-265-0589.