

Coding Tip of the Month June 2009  
Created By: Beth Amara, CCS, CCP

**Orqis Device**  
Insertion for CHF

**Orqis(R) Medical Corporation**

The device, **Exeleras(R) System** was introduced in October of 2006. Preclinical use led to substantial increases in ejection fraction, reduction in left ventricular dimensions and reduction of left ventricle end diastolic pressure without hemolysis or thrombosis.

Results from the company's clinical feasibility study of its percutaneous Cancion(R) System, which demonstrated that use of the device created significant improvements in hemodynamics and beneficial trends in renal function in patients with acutely decompensated heart failure. The physiological benefits observed in the study, including positive changes in vascular, renal and cardiac indicators, collectively known as the "Orqis Effect," were generally realized within 24 hours.

The Exeleras System, with an implantable pump about the size of an implantable cardiac defibrillator (ICD), is designed to manage mid- to late- stage chronic heart failure.

**About Heart Failure**

Almost 5 million Americans -- and 14 million worldwide -- suffer from heart failure, a condition in which the heart becomes weakened and cannot pump blood efficiently. Heart failure is caused by coronary artery disease, past myocardial infarctions and other underlying cardiovascular disorders, and it is characterized by shortness of breath, wheezing and edema.

**Coding Clinic, Second Quarter 2008 Page: 12**

Effective with Discharges: July 7, 2008

**Question:**

What is the ICD-9-CM procedure code for the percutaneous insertion of an Orqis device?

**Answer:**

Assign code 37.68, Insertion of percutaneous external heart assist device, for the Orqis device.

The Orqis device is an extracorporeal, minimally invasive cardiac system designed to increase blood velocity down the thoracic aorta. It is used for patients with congestive heart failure who respond poorly to medical treatment. The system decreases cardiac afterload and provides a circulatory boost. The device provides continuous aortic flow augmentation to the descending aorta, relieving pressure from the heart and down regulating neurohormones to correct abnormal circulatory conditions associated with heart failure.



**Beth Amara**, CCS, CCP — SR. AUDITOR

Ms. Amara has over 15 years experience in HIM, with special focus on case management and coding validation reviews. She is also proficient with Inpatient Services; Acute (MS-DRG), Short Stay Medical Necessity, Psychiatric, and Rehabilitation services.



866-622-8300

[HIP-inc.com](http://HIP-inc.com)