Descriptive Data Element Name: **External Cause of Morbidity (V00-Y99) (up to 6 External Cause Codes)**

XSD Data Type: xs: string

Element Name: ecode

Accepts Null values: Yes

Required in XSD: No

Minimum Constraint: 3

Maximum Constraint: 7

Definition:

Definition: The ICD-10-CM code for the external cause of morbidity used to classify the environmental and circumstances as the cause of injuries and other adverse effects.

Comments: An external cause code may be used with any code in the range of A00.0-T88.9, Z00-Z99, classification that is a health condition due to an external cause. Though they are most applicable to injuries, they are also valid for use with such things as infections or diseases due to an external source, and other health conditions, such as a heart attack that occurs during strenuous physical activity.

The priorities for assigning an external cause code are:

- Required when the condition is due to an external cause.
- Use the full range of external cause codes to completely describe the cause, the intent, the place of occurrence, and if applicable, the activity of the patient at the time of the event, and the patient's status, for all injuries, and other health conditions due to an external cause.
- Assign as many external cause codes as necessary to fully explain each cause. If only one external code can be recorded, assign the code most related to the principal diagnosis.
- An external cause code can never be a principal (first-listed) diagnosis.
- No external cause code from Chapter 20 is needed if the external cause and intent are included in a code from another chapter (e.g. T36.0X1- Poisoning by penicillins, accidental (unintentional)).

Entries:

- Are without a decimal.
- Start with an uppercase V, W, X or Y.

   Edit:

- External cause code assignment should be based on coding guidelines and should be assigned accordingly.
- The same external cause code should not be reported in the external cause code fields and in the diagnosis string.

UB-04 FL 72a-c