



Chapter 17: Congenital Malformations, Deformations, and Chromosomal Abnormalities (Q00–QA1)

Quick-Reference Student Guide

CODING DECODED

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Assigning Codes

- Assign code(s) from Q00–QA1 whenever a malformation, deformation, or chromosomal abnormality is documented.
- May be the principal/first-listed diagnosis OR a secondary diagnosis.

Coding Manifestations

- **No unique code exists** for the malformation/deformation/abnormality → add code(s) for any manifestations present.
- **Code specifically identifies** the anomaly → do NOT separately code manifestations that are an inherent component of it.
- DO add codes for manifestations that are NOT an inherent component of the anomaly.

Use Throughout Life & Corrected Anomalies

- Chapter 17 codes may be used throughout the patient's life.
- Anomaly has been corrected → use a personal history code to identify it instead.
- A malformation may not be identified until later in life even though present at birth — code it whenever the provider makes the diagnosis.

Birth Admission Sequencing

Key rule: For the birth admission, sequence the appropriate Z38 (Liveborn infant) code as the principal diagnosis, followed by any Q00–QA1 congenital anomaly codes.