APPENDIX VIIA: Assigning E-codes

1. Assign the appropriate E-code for all initial treatments of an injury. Use a *late effect* code for subsequent visits, readmissions, etc. when a late effect of the initial injury is being treated.
   a. A late effect E-code should never be used with a related current nature of injury code.

2. The selection of the appropriate E-code is guided by the Index to External Causes which is located after the alphabetical index to diseases and by Inclusion and Exclusion notes in the Tabular text.

3. If two or more events cause separate injuries, an E-code should be assigned for each cause. The first listed E-code will be selected in the following order:
   a. E-codes for child and adult abuse take priority over all other E-codes.
   b. E-codes for cataclysmic events (E908-909: earthquakes, storms, tornados, blizzards, avalanche, etc.) take priority over all other E-codes except child and adult abuse.
   c. E-codes for transport accidents take priority over all other E-codes except cataclysmic events and child and adult abuse.
      i. Within the transportation category, the priorities are: air & space, watercraft, motor vehicles, other road vehicles, railroad.
      ii. Examples:
         1. A car hit by a plane is classified as an aircraft incident (E844.9).
         2. A man was driving his car when it caught fire. He burned his hands attempting to put out the fire. This is described as a motor vehicle accident rather than a fire. Codes assigned would include 944.08 (burn of wrist and hands), and E818.0 (other non-collision motor vehicle accident)

4. The first E-code listed should correspond to the cause of the most serious diagnosis.

5. If the intent (accident, self-harm, assault) of the cause of an injury is unknown or unspecified, code the intent as undetermined E980-E989.

6. Use an additional code from category E849 to indicate the Place of Occurrence. The Place of Occurrence describes the place where the event occurred and not the patient's activity at the time of the event.
   a. Example: A cook, while working in a restaurant, accidentally cut his hand with a knife.
      i. Codes assigned include: 882.0 (open wound of hand), E920.3 (accident caused by knives, swords, and daggers), and E849.6 (public building)

7. Cataclysmic events (E908-E909) take precedence over other causes of injury except child/adult abuse.
   a. Examples:
      i. A patient suffered a forehead laceration when the ceiling in his apartment fell on him during an earthquake. Codes assigned would include 873.42 (open wound of forehead, without mention of complication), E909.0 (injury related to earthquake) and E849.0 (home)

ii. A 42-year-old woman has three fractured ribs. She was the driver of a car that struck a tree after being forced off the highway by a tornado. Codes assigned would include 807.03 (fracture, three ribs), E908.1 (injury related to tornado), and E816.0 (motor vehicle traffic accident due to loss of control, without collision on the highway)

8. Motor vehicle traffic
   a. General tip: determine two things first:
      i. What type of vehicles are involved (motor vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian, snowmobile, ATV, etc.)
         1. Motor vehicle includes car, bus, truck, motorcycle, motorized bicycle (moped), motorized scooter, van, motorized wheel chair
         2. Motorcycle includes motorcycle, dirt bike, motorized bicycle (moped), motorized scooter
         3. Off-road vehicle includes ATV, snowmobile
         4. Pedestrian conveyance includes roller skates, scooter (not motorized), skateboard, wheelchair (not motorized)
      ii. Where did the event occur (on a public highway or not on a public highway)
         1. Driveways and parking lots are NOT on a public highway.
         2. Private roads are NOT on a public highway.
         3. Off-road is NOT on a public highway.
   b. Motorized scooters are considered to be motor vehicles!
   c. Motorized wheel chairs are considered to be motor vehicles!
   d. Non-traffic does NOT apply only to off-road vehicles. Motor vehicles can also be involved in non-traffic events.
   e. If a motorized vehicle is involved, use codes E810-E819 or E820-E825. Do NOT use E826-E829.
   f. Motor vehicle vs. train: Use the motor vehicle codes (E810) not the train codes (E800-E807).
   g. E811 is for collisions between two motor vehicles when one MV leaves the roadway and then reenters the roadway striking another vehicle in the same or the opposite lane.
   h. E812 is for collisions between two motor vehicles.
      i. Do NOT use E812 for collisions between a motor vehicle and a bicyclist or motor vehicle and a pedestrian.
      ii. Use this code for head-ons, T-bones, and rear-ends. Do NOT use this code for roll-over crashes involving a single vehicle (use E816).
   i. E813 is for collisions between a motor vehicle and a non-motor vehicle such as a bicycle or an animal being ridden.
      i. Do NOT use E813 if the event involves two motor vehicles.
      ii. If the collision involves a bicycle and a motor vehicle on a public roadway, use E813.6 for the injured bicyclist.
   j. E814 is for collisions between a motor vehicle and a pedestrian on a public highway.
      i. If a motor vehicle hits a pedestrian on a public highway, use E814.7.
      ii. If a motor vehicle hits a pedestrian in a parking lot, use E822.7. A parking lot is not considered to be a public highway, therefore the codes related to motor vehicle traffic accidents do NOT apply.
      iii. If a motor vehicle hits a person intentionally (i.e., a motorist intentionally tries to run someone down), then use E968.5.
   k. E815 is for collisions with objects on the highway

        i. If the collision involves a motor vehicle hitting a fixed object (such as a light pole, a tree, a brick wall, etc.) on a public roadway, use E815.
        ii. If the collision involves a motor vehicle hitting a fixed object in a parking lot or driveway (nontraffic), then use E823.
  l. E816 is for events resulting from loss of control of the vehicle, without resulting in a collision.
        i. If the event involves an auto rollover and no other vehicles are involved, use E816.

9. Pedestrians
  a. Pedestrian conveyances include roller skates, non-motorized scooters, and non-motorized wheelchairs. Individuals using these conveyances are still considered to be pedestrians.
        i. If the collision involves a motor vehicle hitting a person using a pedestrian conveyance on a public highway, then use E814.7.

10. Motorcycle
  a. A motorcycle is considered to be a motor vehicle.
  b. For motorcross events, use E822-E825 depending on the circumstances of the event. Motorcross is considered nontraffic (not on a public highway). Nontraffic events include accidents involving motor vehicles used in recreational or sporting activities off the highway.

11. Bicycle
  a. If the collision involves a bicycle and a motor vehicle on a public roadway, use E813.6.
  b. If the collision involves a bicycle and a motor vehicle not on a public roadway, use E822.6.
  c. If the event involves a bicyclist only, use E826.1.
  d. Falls from a bicycle should be coded as E826.1.
  e. If a bicyclist runs into a pedestrian and the pedestrian is injured, use E826.0.

12. Other vehicles
  a. If the event involves an accident to, on or involving a ski chair-lift or ski-lift with gondola, use E847.

13. Falls
  a. For falls on or from stairs or steps (including a sidewalk curb), use E880. For falls on the same level from slipping, tripping or stumbling, use E885.
  b. Be cautious when using E884 (fall from one level to another). Be sure that a more specific code such as E880 (fall from stairs or steps), E881 (fall from ladders or scaffolding), E882 (fall from or out of a building or other structure) or E883 (fall into hole or other opening in a surface) cannot be used.
        i. Falls from a horse should be coded as E828.2.
        ii. For falls from a motor vehicle in motion on a public highway, use E818.
        iii. For falls from a bicycle, use E826.
  c. For falls while skiing, use E885.3; for falls while snowboarding, use E885.4. If the skier/snowboarder struck another person or a fixed object (e.g., tree, pole), also code E917.5. If the skier/snowboarder fell from a jump, also code E884.9
  d. For falls while rollerskating, rollerblading, or using inline skates, use E885.1.

e. For falls from a non-motorized scooter, use E885.0. <u>Motorized</u> scooters are considered to be in the same category as motorcycle (a motor vehicle) and should be coded under the motor vehicle codes.
f. Falls from slipping, tripping or stumbling on the same level should be coded as E885.9.
g. Falls from a horse should be coded as E828.2. Being kicked by a horse should be coded as E906.8
h. E886.0 should NOT be used for all sports-related injuries. This code is only for falls on the same level from collision, pushing or shoving, by or with <u>another</u> person. Also consider codes E917.0 (striking against or struck accidentally by objects or persons in sports <u>without a subsequent fall</u>) and E917.5 (striking against or struck accidentally by objects or person in sports <u>with a subsequent fall</u>).

14. Burns
   a. Determine if the burns are due to fire/flames, hot liquids or electricity
      i. If due to fire/flames, use E890-899.
      ii. if due to hot liquids, use E924.
      iii. if due to electricity, use E925.
      iv. if due to explosive material, use E923.
   b. To code an accident caused by fire and flames, determine whether the fire is controlled or uncontrolled. Controlled fires (normal fires) are those that are deliberately started for either heat or cooking. Uncontrolled fires, including those started as "normal" fires that became out of control, are conflagrations. In addition, determine the location of the fire, and whether it occurred in a private or public building or structure.
   c. If the event was intentional, use E958.1 or E958.2 for suicide/intentionally self-inflicted and E961, E968.0 or E968.3 for assault.
   d. For events involving fireworks, use E923.0
   e. If the event involved explosive <u>gases</u> and there was an explosion, use E923.2.

15. Other injuries
   a. For an injury due to being pinned by a motor vehicle, use E818 or E825.
   b. Motor vehicles are not considered to be in the "machinery" category.
   c. For injuries due to unintentional human bites, use E928.3
   d. Look at the details regarding the E917 codes (struck by person or object). The 4th digit varies by activity and whether or not the person subsequently fell.
   e. Injuries due to overexertion only (E927) should NOT be downloaded to the state registry.

16. Machinery
   a. To code an accident caused by machinery <u>in operation</u>, look in the Index under "Accident, caused by . . . " or "Accident, machine", then choose a term describing the specific type of machine involved.
   b. To code an accident caused by machinery <u>not in operation</u>, identify the cause of injury and locate this term in the Index. For example, to code a pinched hand in a printing machine, look under "Caught in, object." A machine not in operation is considered an "object".
   c. Distinguish between injuries due to woodworking machines (E919.4) (band saw, circular saw, radial saw, bench saw) and injuries due to powered hand tools (hand saw) or unpowered hand tools (unpowered saw).
   d. Nail guns should be considered a powered hand tool (E920.1)

e. Paint guns should be considered a powered hand tool (E920.1)

17. Child abuse
    a. When the cause of an injury or neglect is intentional child or adult abuse, the first listed E-code should be from category E967, to identify the perpetrator, if known. Additional E-codes in the range of E960-969 should then be assigned to describe the specific mechanisms if known. E967 can be also be used with other codes related to child abuse (such as 995.5).
    b. In cases of neglect when the intent is determined to be accidental, E904.0 (abandonment or neglect of an infant or helpless person) should be the first listed E-code.
    c. Example: A 4-year old child has been abused repeatedly by his father and presented with burned hands after being scalded with hot water. Codes assigned would include 944.08 (burns of wrists and hands), 995.5 (child maltreatment syndrome), E967.0 (child battering and other maltreatment, by parent), and E968.3 (assault by hot liquid).

18. Suicide
    a. E950-E959 are used to code injuries from suicide, and attempted suicide, and <u>intentionally</u> self-inflicted injuries (whether or not death was the intended outcome). These codes should NOT be used for injuries that are self-inflicted but accidental or unintentional.

19. Homicide/assault
    a. If a person is injured by a police officer acting in the line of duty, use E970-E978, not the assault codes E960-E969.
    b. Homicide/assault includes injuries inflicted by <u>another person</u> with the intent to injure or kill (i.e. does not include injuries due to animals, or accidental self-inflicted).
    c. If the assault involves a human bite, use E968.7.

20. If the intentionality of the injury (intentional – such as suicide attempt or assault, or unintentional/accidental) is not clearly known, use the Undetermined Intent codes (E980-E989).

COLORADO SPECIFIC "RULES"   (based on 2/25/05 discussion)

1. A motorized scooter is considered to be a motorcycle. When coding the 4th digit for E810-E819 or for E820-E825, use ".2" for motorized scooter driver and ".3" for motorized scooter passenger.