

2.1.1 Nature of Injury or Illness—Definition, Rules of Selection

1.0 DEFINITION

The nature of injury or illness identifies the principal physical characteristic(s) of the work related injury or illness.

RULES OF SELECTION:

- 1.1 Name the injury or illness indicated on the source document. *Example: For strained back, choose **Strains**.*
- 1.2 When two or more injuries or illnesses are indicated, and one is a sequela, aftereffect, complication due to medical treatment, or re-injury, choose the initial injury or illness. *Example: If a laceration became infected developing into septicemia, choose **Cuts, lacerations**.*
- 1.3 When two or more injuries or illnesses are indicated and one is more severe than the other(s) and is not a sequela or complication of the other injury or illness, select the more severe injury or illness. *Example: For sprained finger and fractured wrist, choose **Fractures**.*
 - 1.3.1 When a single event or exposure produces an injury and transmits a disease simultaneously, and one is more severe than the other(s), select the more severe injury or disease. *Example: If a needlestick produces a puncture wound and transmits serum hepatitis, choose **Type B viral hepatitis (serum hepatitis)**.*
- 1.4 When two or more injuries or illnesses are indicated but neither of which can be determined as being more severe than the others, select the appropriate multiple injuries or illnesses classification code. *Example: For fractured and severely burned left leg, choose **Fractures and burns**.*

*-Asterisks denote a summary level code not assigned to individual cases.