

Diabetes Mellitus

Diabetes Mellitus is one of the most inaccurately coded chronic conditions. The frequency and complexity of diabetes mellitus coding requires a solid understanding of the ICD-10-CM coding guidelines to ensure accurate and complete documentation and appropriate code(s) assignment.

CD-10-CM Coding and Documentation Insights:

- A patient may have multiple diabetic complications in more than one body area or system. Assign as many codes from the appropriate category (E08-E13) as needed to identify all the associated conditions addressed and monitored at time of visit.
- If the type of diabetes mellitus is not documented in the visit note, the default diabetes mellitus category E11.-, Type 2 diabetes mellitus is reported.
- Hyperglycemia is no longer considered a symptom of diabetes mellitus and should be noted in the medical record when it exists, as it is a complication of diabetes- E11.65, Type 2 diabetes mellitus with hyperglycemia.
- ICD-10-CM Code Z79.4, Long-term (current) use of insulin should be assigned to indicate that the patient uses insulin for Type 2 diabetes mellitus. Note: Z79.4 should not be assigned if insulin is given temporarily to bring a patient's Type 2 blood sugar under control during an encounter.
- If a patient has not previously been diagnosed with diabetes mellitus and is being seen for a screening, it is not appropriate to assign a diabetic diagnosis. Rather, you would assign ICD-10-CM code Z13.1, Encounter for screening for diabetes mellitus.
- Prediabetes and borderline diabetes mellitus both classify to code R73.03, prediabetes.

Specific diabetes mellitus complications

Best documentation practice is to describe each complication as "diabetic", "due to", or "associated with" the diabetes

Circulatory:

- E11.51 -with diabetic peripheral angiopathy without gangrene
- E11.52 -with diabetic peripheral angiopathy with gangrene
- E11.59 -with other circulatory complications

Note: Peripheral arterial disease, intermittent claudication and peripheral vascular disease are all coded to: I73.9

Atherosclerosis of native arteries of the extremities

- I70.20- Unspecified Atherosclerosis of extremities (-)
- I70.21- Atherosclerosis of extremities w/intermittent claudication
- I70.22- Atherosclerosis of extremities w/rest pain
- I70.23- Atherosclerosis of right leg w/ulceration
- I70.24- Atherosclerosis of left leg w/ulceration
- I70.26- Atherosclerosis of extremities w/gangrene
- I70.29- Other Atherosclerosis of native arteries of extremities

*(-) Add 6th character:

Neurologic: Mono- and polyneuropathy, autonomic neuropathy

- E11.40 -with diabetic neuropathy, unspecified
- E11.41 -with diabetic mononeuropathy
- E11.42 -with diabetic polyneuropathy
- E11.43 -with diabetic autonomic (poly)neuropathy
- E11.44 -with diabetic amyotrophy
- E11.49 -with other diabetic neurological complication

Nephropathy (renal): Chronic kidney disease (specify the stage)

- E11.21 -with diabetic nephropathy
- E11.22 -with chronic kidney disease
 - Use additional code to identify stage of chronic kidney disease (N18.1-N18.6)
- E11.29 -with other diabetic kidney complication

Ophthalmic: example: Diabetic cataract

- E11.36 -with diabetic cataract

Retinopathy: Proliferative, non-proliferative, macular edema

- E11.31* -with unspecified diabetic retinopathy
- E11.32* -with mild nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy
- E11.33* -with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy
- E11.34* -with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy
- E11.35* -with proliferative diabetic retinopathy
- E11.37* -with diabetic macular edema, resolved following treatment
- E11.39 -with other diabetic ophthalmic complication
 - (use additional code to indicate manifestation)

Note: *Sixth character will indicate the presence or absence of macular edema, when required

Note: *Seventh character will indicate laterality (right, left, bilateral, unspecified), when required

OTHER SPECIFIED: (examples)

Arthropathy: example: Charcot joint

- E11.610 -with diabetic neuropathic arthropathy
- E11.618 -with other diabetic arthropathy

Skin Complications

- E11.620 -with diabetic dermatitis
- E11.621 -with foot ulcer
 - Use additional code to identify site of ulcer (L97.4-, L97.5-)
- E11.622 -with other skin ulcer
 - Use additional code to identify site of ulcer (L97.1-L97.9, L98.41-L98.49)
- E11.628 -with other skin complications Hyperglycemia;

Oral

- E11.630 -with periodontal disease
- E11.638 -with other oral complications

Hypoglycemia and Hyperglycemia

- E11.641 -with hypoglycemia with coma
- E11.649 -with hypoglycemia without coma
- E11.65 -with hyperglycemia
- E11.69 -with other specified complication (add code to identify)

Note: ICD-10-CM requires the physician to specify "uncontrolled" as either hypoglycemia or hypoglycemia.