

Documentation and Coding Tips

Diabetes Mellitus with Chronic Complications

With expanded combination codes for diabetes, providers can report specific clinical details concerning diabetic complications. To promote quality and continuity of care, it is crucial to report all documented conditions to the highest specificity. ICD-10-CM assumes a link with diabetes and multiple common conditions. Familiarize yourself with these conditions in the index of your ICD-10-CM book for correct coding.

When documenting Diabetes Mellitus with Chronic Complications, specify the following:

- Follow guidance from the general Diabetes Mellitus coding tip and document: Type, degree of control, use of insulin and oral hypoglycemic drugs, and treatment plan.
- Document and use as many codes as required to describe all complications of diabetes.
- Use terms such as: Due to, associated with, secondary to, as this will establish the causal relationship between the two conditions.
- Document all body system(s) affected and complication(s) affecting the body system(s).
- Document when a complication or manifestation is **NOT** due to diabetes.
- For diabetes mellitus with **other specified** complications, document what the **other specified** complication is and its relation to diabetes mellitus. You will also need to include the additional ICD.10 code to identify the specific complication. (See the specific documentation example below for diabetes mellitus with hyperlipidemia).

Documentation and Coding Examples**Specific documentation example:**

Patient presents today for follow-up on his hyperlipidemia due to type 2 diabetes mellitus. He was started on Lipitor at his visit 6 months ago. Fasting labs show lipids are at goal. His A1C is up slightly to 7.0.

Assign code: E11.69 Type II diabetes mellitus with other specified condition. E78.5 Hyperlipidemia.

Specific documentation example:

Patient seen today for diabetic chronic kidney disease, stage 3. The patient has type 2 diabetes and is taking insulin daily. UA and Renal Function Panel ordered today.

Assign code: E11.22 Type II diabetes mellitus with diabetic chronic kidney disease. N18.3 Chronic kidney disease, stage 3 (moderate). Z79.4 Long term (current) use of insulin.

Specific documentation example:

Patient has type 2 diabetes mellitus with neuropathy. She experiences mostly burning and tingling but, no numbness in her feet. Gabapentin 600 mg at night provides some relief. She has not been routinely checking her blood sugars. Glycohemoglobin A1C ordered today.

Assign code: E11.40 Type II diabetes mellitus with neuropathy.