Documentation and Coding Tips
Diabetes Mellitus

Address diabetes in every encounter with a diabetic patient, as it will always affect outcomes and care.

When documenting Diabetes Mellitus, specify the following:

- **Type:**
    - E08-Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition
    - E09-Diabetes mellitus drug or chemical induced
    - E10-Type I diabetes mellitus
    - E11-Type II diabetes mellitus
    - E13-Other specified form of diabetes mellitus
      Note-If the type is not documented, report codes from category E11-diabetes mellitus Type II.
- **Complications or manifestations:**
    - Use as many codes as required to describe all documented complications of diabetes.
    - Use terms such as: due to, associated with, secondary to, as this will establish the relationship between the two conditions.
    - Document when a complication or manifestation is NOT due to diabetes.
    - Document all body system(s) affected and complication(s) affecting the body system(s).
- **Degree of control:**
    - Terms controlled and uncontrolled are no longer used for diabetes mellitus in ICD.10.
    - Document whether hyperglycemic or hypoglycemic.
    - Inadequate control, out of control, or poorly controlled is reported as hyperglycemia.
- **Use of insulin and oral hypoglycemic drugs:**
    - Z79.4 is assigned for diabetes mellitus Type II when insulin is prescribed for long term use.
    - Z79.4 is not assigned when insulin is given temporarily to bring blood sugars under control.
    - Z79.84 is assigned for long term (current) use of oral hypoglycemic drugs.
    - When both oral hypoglycemic drugs and insulin are prescribed, only code for the long term (current) use of insulin.
- **Treatment:**
    - Document whether diabetes is controlled by diet, exercise, anti-diabetic medications, insulin or a combination of these modalities.
    - Document referrals for dietetic counseling, foot care, or other therapies.

Documentation and Coding Examples

Non-specific documentation example:
Patient here today for follow up of his diabetes.

Assign code: E11.9 Type II diabetes without complications.

Specific documentation example:
Patient has limited ambulation due to peripheral neuropathy. His diabetes is poorly controlled, today's A1C was 12.4.

Assign code: E11.40 Type II diabetes with diabetic neuropathy, unspecified. E11.65 diabetes with hyperglycemia.