

## Documentation and Coding Tips

## Pulmonary Embolism and Deep Vein Thrombosis

Document to the highest specificity for accurate and complete coding of pulmonary embolus (PE) and deep vein thrombosis (DVT). There are no specific coding guidelines for when a PE/DVT are considered acute or chronic. Provider documentation is key for proper code assignment.

**Acute embolism/thrombosis is when:**

- A new and often symptomatic embolism/thrombosis is discovered, and the patient is starting anticoagulation therapy.

**Chronic embolism/thrombosis is when:**

- An old or established embolism/thrombosis requires ongoing anticoagulation therapy.

**History of embolism/thrombosis is when:**

- The patient no longer has an embolism/thrombosis but is taking anticoagulation medication prophylactically.

**Clearly document the following for the accurate and specific assignment of the correct ICD.10 code(s) for PE/DVT:**

- **Severity:** Acute, chronic, historical
- **Type:** Saddle, septic, single/multiple subsegmental, other
  - With or without acute cor pulmonale
- **Laterality:** Left, right, bilateral
- **Vein:** Femoral, iliac, peroneal, popliteal, tibial, etc.
- **Location:** Upper extremity, lower extremity
- **Treatment:** List medication and length of treatment. Also include compression stockings, imaging, lab tests, surgical removal, vena cava filter, etc.
  - Use additional code, if applicable, for associated long-term (current) use of anticoagulants (Z79.01)

**Documentation and Coding Examples:**

**Acute deep vein thrombosis:** Male patient with an acute DVT of right lower leg. Starting Coumadin treatment.  
**Assign code:** I82.401 Acute embolism and thrombosis of unspecified deep veins of right lower extremity.

*Rationale: Documentation specifies laterality, and the patient is starting Coumadin treatment.*

**Chronic deep vein thrombosis:** 70-year-old female patient seen today for follow-up of an old, chronic deep vein thrombosis of the right femoral vein. Patient is on anticoagulation therapy.

**Assign code:** I82.511 Chronic embolism and thrombosis of right femoral vein. Z79.01 Long-term (current) use of anticoagulants.

*Rationale: The provider documented the severity, laterality, and vein of the of the deep vein thrombosis and notes the use of anticoagulants.*

**History of pulmonary embolism:** 75-year-old patient seen today in follow-up for a pulmonary embolism she had 6 months ago. No evidence of embolism on ultrasound and is now taking Xarelto prophylactically.

**Assign code:** Z86.711 Personal history of pulmonary embolism. Z79.01 Long-term (current) use of anticoagulants.

*Rationale: Since the provider documented no evidence of embolism and the patient is taking Xarelto prophylactically, this means the patient has a history of having this diagnosis.*