Diabetes Mellitus

Selecting Diagnosis Codes

Diabetes mellitus is one of the most inaccurately coded chronic conditions. Many billers, coders and/or providers are missing opportunities to show which patients are sicker and have a higher medical risk. The prevalence of diabetes mellitus and the complexity of diabetes coding requires a comprehensive understanding of the ICD-10 coding guidelines to ensure accurate code assignment.

When selecting ICD-10 diagnosis codes, accuracy is important to describe the patient's true health. Collaboration between the health care provider and the coder and/or biller is essential to achieve complete and accurate documentation, code assignment and reporting of diagnoses and procedures.
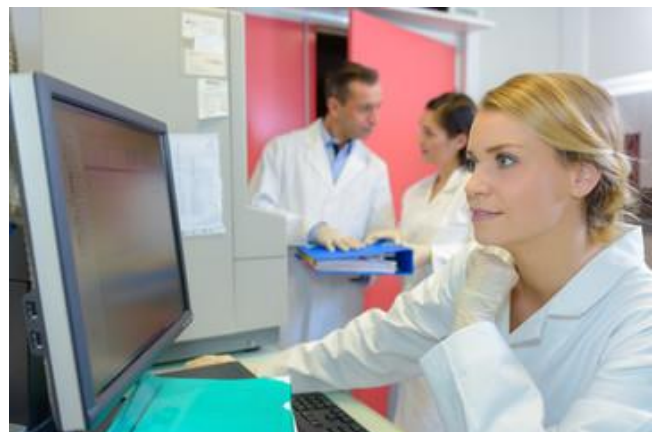
These diagnosis codes are also used to determine the eligible population for the *Comprehensive Diabetes Care* (CDC) Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS®[1]) quality measure. These codes also determine the threshold members are held to for the *Controlling Blood Pressure* (CBP) quality measure.

Note: For all codes listed below without numbers after the period (e.g., E10.), additional character(s) are required (e.g., E10.65). Diabetes is in the ICD-10 book in the Alphabetical Index to Diseases under "Diabetes." Once the correct code is located in the index, you should continue to the Tabular List of Diseases to confirm diagnosis assignment.

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Coding Requirements with Focus on Categories E08.-E13.

- Diabetes mellitus is a hierarchical condition category (HCC).
- The diabetes mellitus codes are combination codes that include:
  1. The type of diabetes mellitus
  2. The body system(s) affected
  3. The complications affecting the body system(s)
- When coding diabetes mellitus, you should use as many codes from categories E08.-E13. as necessary to describe all the complications and associated conditions of the disease.

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Coding Requirements Focus on Categories E08.-E13. *(continued)*

ICD-10 Category	ICD-10 Description	Additional code needed to indicate insulin use?	Notes
E08.	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition	Yes	Code first the underlying condition
E09.	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus	Yes	Code first poisoning due to drug or toxin, if applicable Use additional code for adverse effect, if applicable, to identify drug
E10.	Type 1 diabetes mellitus	No	
E11.	Type 2 diabetes mellitus	Yes	
E13.	Other specified diabetes mellitus	Yes	

Important Information Regarding Diabetes Coding

Topic	Information
Coding Insulin Usage	Assign ICD-10 code Z79.4, Long-term (current) use of insulin to indicate the patient uses insulin for type 2 diabetes mellitus (category E11. codes). Z79.4 should NOT be used for type 1 diabetes mellitus (category E10. codes).
Screening	If a patient has not previously been diagnosed with diabetes and is being seen for a screening, it is not appropriate to assign a diabetic diagnosis. Assign ICD-10 code Z13.1, Encounter for screening for diabetes mellitus. This code can be found under "Screening" in the alphabetical index of the ICD-10 book.
Controlled and Uncontrolled	Diabetes codes are no longer classified as controlled or uncontrolled. Code classifications, such as inadequately controlled, out of control and poorly controlled to diabetes, by type, with hyperglycemia.
Identifying Type	The type of diabetes mellitus should always be clearly documented in the medical record for each date of service. However, if the type of diabetes mellitus is not documented in the medical record, the default ICD-10 diagnosis code is E11., type 2 diabetes mellitus.
Diabetes in Pregnancy	Code diabetes mellitus in pregnancy codes from category O24.

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Important Information Regarding Diabetes Coding *(continued)*

Topic	Information
Manifestations	In ICD-10, there is no instructional note found under diabetes mellitus codes requiring an additional code to identify the manifestation because it is already part of the code description. However, specific diabetes codes require additional codes to identify the manifestation further, such as *diabetes with foot ulcer* to identify the site of the ulcer, or *diabetes with chronic kidney disease* to identify the stage of chronic kidney disease. To link a manifestation/complication to the diabetes mellitus, the documentation must clearly show there is a causal effect of the disease to the associated manifestation. One diagnosis code MUST be clearly documented in the medical record as being directly related to the other. Examples: - Diabetic nephropathy - Chronic kidney disease (CKD) due to diabetes mellitus (DM) - Peripheral vascular disease (PVD) due to DM - Peripheral artery disease (PAD) due to DM - Diabetic neuropathy - Peripheral neuropathy due to DM - Etiology of neuropathy is DM - Diabetic retinopathy - Diabetic cataract - Diabetic macular edema

Choosing the Right Code

When the documentation states…	Use this ICD-10 code category and description…	
	Type 1 Diabetes – E10.	**Type 2 Diabetes – E11.**
No complications as being directly related to the disease	**E10.9**, Type 1 diabetes mellitus **without** complications	**E11.9**, Type 2 diabetes mellitus **without** complication
There is a complication directly related to the disease, but no specific complication has been listed.	**E10.8**, Type 1 diabetes mellitus with **unspecified** complications	**E11.8**, Type 2 diabetes mellitus with **unspecified** complications
Clearly, there is a complication directly related to the disease and this specific complication has been clearly documented.	**E10.10-E10.65**, Type 1 diabetes mellitus with **specified** complications	**E11.00-E11.65**, Type 2 diabetes mellitus with **specified** complications
The complication is not one that has been listed in the code range **E10.10-E10.65 for type 1 and E11.00-E11.65 for type 2**. **Note**: You must use an additional code to identify the specific complication.	**E10.69**, Type 1 diabetes mellitus with **other specified** complications	**E11.69**, Type 2 diabetes mellitus with **other specified** complications

Keep in mind, diabetes can have more than one complication associated with it. Use all applicable ICD-10 codes needed to accurately code a patient's condition(s). Also remember to add ICD-10 code Z79.4 (long-term current use of insulin), if applicable for type 2 diabetes mellitus.

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References

- ICD-10 CM 2021 Coding Book
- ICD-10 Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2021

[1]HEDIS is a registered trademark of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).
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