



Chart Documentation & Diagnosis Coding

Do You Tell the Whole Story?

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is now basing health plan payments for Medicare Advantage patients on health status. Each year a patient's chart documentation must convey all evaluated chronic diseases in order for that patient to be properly funded for the next year.

Not only does the chart documentation need to be complete, but the ICD-9CM diagnosis coding must be accurate and to the highest level of specificity.

Diabetes is the most prevalent disease among the senior population, yet it is the most under-documented and under-coded. Diabetes requires 5 digits. 250.XX **The fourth digit is the most important in the CMS payment model.** Manifestations or complications of the diabetes are communicated via the fourth digit.

First, the chart documentation must state the proper condition for the patient, then the appropriate diagnosis code must be identified. The back side of this document is intended to be used in your office to assist you with the proper diabetes documentation and coding.

1. Select the appropriate diabetes code (250.XX)
2. Then use additional codes listed to identify manifestations

** Please note that this is NOT an inclusive manifestation list.*

General Documentation Tips

- Be Clear, Concise, Consistent, Complete & *Legible*
- Use the SOAP approach
- Maintain a Problem List – and keep it updated
- Use Chart/Progress Note Templates to prompt complete evaluation and documentation
- Keep Abbreviations to a Minimum
- Each Page Must Identify the Patient and be Dated
- Sign Each and Every Record, whether in the office or hospital

Sample Superbills can be found on the ICE website: www.iceforhealth.org
Click on: Library/ICE RADAR main team/SuperBills
Review and update yours regularly.

General Diagnosis Coding Tips

- Don't code "rule out," "suspected," "probable," "questionable" in the office setting. This is acceptable in an inpatient setting only. Rather, code the highest degree of certainty for that visit, i.e., the signs, symptoms, abnormal test results.
- Don't code conditions that were previously treated and no longer exist. There are "history of" codes that may be used. (Example: eradicated cancer should be coded as "history of.")
- Code "metastatic cancer" when appropriate, not as Ca of two different sites
- Remember to code the most obvious chronic conditions each year when evaluated (paraplegia, atrial fibrillation, CHF, rheumatoid arthritis, COPD...)
- If you check or circle the diagnosis on the Superbill or Fee Ticket, make sure you have properly documented the condition in the chart

Pocket Coding Books can be requested of your drug company representatives. Janssen, Merck and Aventis, among others, produce them for physician use.

Diabetes Mellitus Diagnoses Codes and Associated Manifestations

Fifth-digit subclassifications for use with category 250:

- 0 Type II (NIDDM), Unspec type, not stated as uncontrolled
- 1 Type I (IDDM), not stated as uncontrolled
- 2 Type II (NIDDM), unspecified type, uncontrolled (adult-onset diabetic patients, even if patient requires insulin)
- 3 Type I (IDDM), uncontrolled

Write the number (fifth digit) in the space provided

- 250.0__ DM without mention of Complication
- 250.1__ Diabetes with Ketoacidosis
- 250.2__ Diabetes with Hyperosmolarity
- 250.3__ Diabetes with Other Coma
- 250.4__ Diabetes with Renal Manifestations
Must specify kidney manifestation
- 583.81 Nephritis and nephropathy, not spec as acute or chronic, in diseases classified elsewhere
- 581.81 Nephrotic syndrome in disease classified elsewhere
- 250.5__ Diabetes with Ophthalmic Manifestation
Indicate fifth digit subclassification (0,1,2,3)
Use additional codes to identify manifestations:
- 362.01 Background diabetic retinopathy
- 362.02 Proliferative diabetic retinopathy
- 362.83 Retinal edema
- 365.44 Glaucoma associated with systemic syndromes
- 366.41 Diabetic cataract
- 369.01 Better eye: total impairment; lesser eye: total impairment
- 369.02 Better eye: near total impairment; lesser eye: not further specified
- 369.03 Better eye: near total impairment; lesser eye: total impairment
- 369.04 Better eye: near-total impairment; lesser eye: near total-impairment
- 369.05 Better eye: profound impairment; lesser eye: not further specified
- 369.06 Better eye: profound impairment; lesser eye: total impairment
- 369.07 Better eye: profound impairment; lesser eye: near-total impairment
- 369.08 Better eye: profound impairment; lesser eye: profound impairment
- 369.10 Impairment level not further specified
- 369.11 Better eye: severe impairment; lesser eye: blind, not further specified
- 369.12 Better eye: severe impairment; lesser eye: total impairment
- 369.13 Better eye: severe impairment; lesser eye: near-total impairment
- 369.14 Better eye: severe impairment; lesser eye: profound impairment
- 369.15 Better eye: moderate impairment; lesser eye: blind, not further specified
- 369.16 Better eye: moderate impairment; lesser eye: total impairment
- 369.17 Better eye: moderate impairment; lesser eye: near total impairment
- 369.18 Better eye: moderate impairment; lesser eye: profound impairment
- 369.20 Impairment level not further specified
- 369.21 Better eye: severe impairment; lesser eye: not further specified
- 369.22 Better eye: severe impairment; lesser eye: severe impairment
- 369.23 Better eye: moderate impairment; lesser eye: not further specified
- 369.24 Better eye: moderate impairment; lesser eye: severe impairment
- 369.25 Better eye: moderate impairment; lesser eye: moderate impairment
- 369.3 Unqualified visual loss, both eyes
- 369.4 Legal blindness, as defined in U.S.A.
- 369.60 Impairment level not further specified
- 369.61 One eye: total impairment; other eye: not specified
- 369.62 One eye: total impairment; other eye: near normal vision
- 369.63 One eye: total impairment; other eye: normal vision
- 369.64 One eye: near-total impairment; other eye: not specified
- 369.65 One eye: near-total impairment; other eye: near normal vision
- 369.66 One eye: near-total impairment; other eye: normal vision
- 369.67 One eye: profound impairment; other eye: not specified
- 369.68 One eye: profound impairment; other eye: near normal vision
- 369.69 One eye: profound impairment; other eye: normal vision
- 369.70 Impairment level not further specified
- 369.71 One eye: severe impairment; other eye: not specified
- 369.72 One eye: severe impairment; other eye: near-normal vision
- 369.73 One eye: severe impairment; other eye: normal vision
- 369.74 One eye: moderate impairment; other eye, not specified
- 369.75 One eye: moderate impairment; other eye, near normal vision
- 369.76 One eye: moderate impairment; other eye; normal vision
- 369.8 Unqualified visual loss, one eye
- 369.9 Unspecified visual loss

250.6__ Diabetes with Neurological Manifestations

Indicate fifth digit subclassification (0,1,2,3)

Use additional code to identify manifestations:

- 337.1 Peripheral autonomic neuropathy in disorders classified elsewhere
- 354.0 Carpal tunnel syndrome
- 354.1 Other lesion of median nerve
- 354.2 Lesion of ulnar nerve
- 354.3 Lesion of radial nerve
- 354.4 Causalgia of upper limb
- 354.5 Mononeuritis multiplex
- 354.8 Other mononeuritis of upper limb
- 354.9 Mononeuritis of upper limb, unspecified
- 355.0 Lesion of sciatic nerve
- 355.1 Meralgia paresthetica
- 355.2 Other lesion of femoral nerve
- 355.3 Lesion of lateral popliteal nerve
- 355.4 Lesion of medial popliteal nerve
- 355.5 Tarsal tunnel syndrome
- 355.6 Lesion of plantar nerve
- 355.71 Causalgia of lower limb
- 355.79 Other mononeuritis of lower limb
- 355.8 Mononeuritis of lower limb, unspecified
- 355.9 Mononeuritis of unspecified site
- 357.2 Polyneuropathy in diabetes
- 358.1 Myasthenic syndromes in diseases classified elsewhere
- 713.5 Arthropathy associated with neurological disorders

250.7__ Diabetes with Peripheral circulatory disorders

Indicate fifth digit subclassification (0,1,2,3)

Use additional code to identify manifestations:

- 785.4 Gangrene
- 443.81 Peripheral angiopathy in diseases classified elsewhere

250.8__ Diabetes with Other Specified Manifestations

Indicate fifth digit subclassification (0,1,2,3)

Use additional code to identify manifestations:

- 707.10 Ulcer of lower limb, unspecified
- 707.11 Ulcer of thigh
- 707.12 Ulcer of calf
- 707.13 Ulcer of ankle
- 707.14 Ulcer of heel and midfoot
- 707.15 Ulcer of other part of foot
- 707.19 Ulcer of other part of lower limb
- 707.8 Chronic ulcer of other specified sites
- 707.9 Chronic ulcer of unspecified site
- 731.8 Other bone involvement in diseases classified elsewhere

250.9__ Diabetes with Unspecified Complications

Indicate fifth digit subclassification (0,1,2,3)

648.00 Diabetes Mellitus in Pregnancy, Unspec. Episode of care or N/A

648.03 Diabetes Mellitus in Pregnancy, Antepartum condition or complication

- 276.5 Hypovolemia
- 359.2 Myotonic Disorders
- 244.3 P-Aminosalicylic Acid (pas)
- 657.03 Polyhydramnios
- 642.43 Pre-Eclampsia

In addition report code from category 250 to indicate type of diabetes involved