

Clinical documentation improvements and general coding tips: Embolism and thrombosis

Coding active and/or current embolism and thrombosis accurately requires the documentation to note the following:

Type of embolism or thrombosis

- Pulmonary embolism (PE)
 - Is it acute?
 - With acute cor pulmonale?
 - Without acute cor pulmonale?
 - Is it a provoked or unprovoked PE?
 - Is it chronic?
- Other specified site

Anticoagulation treatment

- Length of treatment
 - If treatment greater than three months, and no clear documentation of rationale for why, then assume medication is prophylaxis/preventative and code as Hx of.
- Medication

For accurate reporting of ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes, the documentation should describe the patient's condition, using terminology which includes specific diagnoses as well as symptoms, problems, or reasons for the encounter.

Suggested documentation and examples

1. Code acute PE while the patient is anticoagulated for up to three months (document duration in your note).
 - a. After three months, anticoagulant medication is often used for prevention only. Therefore, continue coding acute PE past three months only if clinically appropriate.
 - b. I26.99 Other pulmonary embolism without cor pulmonale (a.k.a. acute PE, unspecified)
A/P: Patient continues on warfarin two months into three-month course for subsegmental PE. Asymptomatic, continue monitor INR.
 - c. Z86.711 Personal history of pulmonary embolism
A/P: Patient with unprovoked PE five months ago.
Currently asymptomatic, normal exam will continue full six months anticoagulation.
2. Code acute DVT while the patient is anticoagulated for up to six months (document duration in your note).*
 - a. Continue coding acute deep vein thrombosis (DVT) past six months only if clinically appropriate

- b. I82.432 Acute embolism and thrombosis of left popliteal vein
A/P: Patient continues on warfarin two months into six-month course for left popliteal DVT.
Asymptomatic, continue monitor INR.
 - c. Z86.718 Personal history of other venous thrombosis and embolism
A/P: Patient with unprovoked DVT seven months ago.
Currently asymptomatic, normal exam will continue full 12 months anticoagulation.
3. Chronic DVT criteria:
REPEAT Radiologic studies (Ultrasonography, CT, etc.) confirms persistent clot > four weeks
- a. Specify Chronic DVT
Code I82.5*
5th character for Vein involved
6th character for Right, Left, bilateral or unspecified
 - b. Code I82.532 Chronic embolism & thrombosis left popliteal vein
Code Z79.01 Long term (current) use anticoag*
A/P: Continued swelling, pain, DVT 6 months ago L popliteal vein.
Ultrasonography reveals chronic DVT. Continue anticoagulation and compression stocking, refer to vascular surgery.

**Use additional code, if applicable, for long-term (current) use of anticoagulants.*

Resources

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2382982>

“Factors determining clot resolution in patients with acute pulmonary embolism.” *Blood Coagulation & Fibrinolysis*. 2016. Apr;27(3):294-300.

“Deep vein thrombosis outcome and the level of oral anticoagulation therapy” *Journal Of Vascular Surgery*. November 1999 Caprini et al p 810.

Independence Blue Cross coding and documentation education materials are based on current guidelines, are to be used for reference only, and are not intended to replace the authoritative guidance of the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting as approved by the American Hospital Association (AHA), the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). Clinical and coding decisions are to be made based on the following:

1. *The independent judgment of the treating physician or qualified health care practitioner.*
2. *The best interests of the patient.*
3. *The clinical documentation as contained in the medical record.*