

ICD-10, Part 4: How to Code for Diabetic Retinopathy

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Finding the ICD-10 codes for diabetic retinopathy can be tricky. They are not listed in Chapter 7, Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa (H00-H59), but are in the diabetes section (E08-E13) of Chapter 4, Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases.

Retinal complications. To further confuse matters, the most common retinal complications are in Chapter 7, not Chapter 4. Examples include vitreous hemorrhage (H43.1-), traction detachment of retina (H33.4-), and rubeosis iridis (H21.1-).

New options. ICD-10 features codes for diagnoses that don't currently have codes. These include drug- or chemical-induced diabetes mellitus (E09.-); gestational diabetes (Q24.4-); neonatal diabetes mellitus (P70.2); and postpancreatectomy, postprocedural, or secondary diabetes mellitus (E13.-).

Changes in Documentation

Some terms that you're using in charts—such as “NIDDM,” “controlled,” and “uncontrolled”—will be obsolete when ICD-10 starts on Oct. 1, 2015.

Instead, diabetes documentation should address the following questions: Is it type 1 or type 2? Is there diabetic retinopathy? If so, is it proliferative or nonproliferative? If nonproliferative, is it mild, moderate, or severe? Is there macular edema?

Preparedness tips. To help you work

ICD-10 Codes for Diabetes		
DIAGNOSIS	TYPE 1	TYPE 2
No retinopathy	E10.9	E11.9
PDR and ME	E10.351	E11.351
PDR and no ME	E10.359	E11.359
Mild NPDR and ME	E10.321	E11.321
Mild NPDR and no ME	E10.329	E11.329
Moderate NPDR and ME	E10.331	E11.331
Moderate NPDR and no ME	E10.339	E11.339
Severe NPDR and ME	E10.341	E11.341
Severe NPDR and no ME	E10.349	E11.349

ME—macular edema; **PDR**—proliferative diabetic retinopathy: neovascularization and/or vitreous/preretinal hemorrhage; **NPDR**—nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy; **Mild NPDR**—microaneurysms only; **Moderate NPDR**—more than mild NPDR but less than severe; **Severe NPDR**—no PDR and two or more of the following: severe intraretinal hemorrhages and microaneurysms in each of four quadrants, definite venous bleeding in two or more quadrants, and moderate intraretinal microvascular abnormalities in one or more quadrants.

through that series of questions, the AAOE has developed a decision tree that you can laminate and keep for reference at the coder's desk. Download it at www.aao.org/icd10. You also should update your intake form so that staff can capture the type of diabetes.

Insulin use? Submit Z79.4 as supporting documentation indicating any insulin use.

What's the Underlying Condition?

According to ICD-10 instructions, physicians should first code the

underlying condition. Examples include congenital rubella syndrome (P35.0), Cushing syndrome (E24.-), cystic fibrosis (E84.-), malignant neoplasm (C00-C96), acute pancreatitis (K85.-), and other diseases of the pancreas (K86.-).

However, under ICD-9, payers don't require you to code the underlying condition, so it is doubtful that they will mandate this under ICD-10. But just in case they do, consider updating the review of systems (ROS) to include that information. ■