



When selecting International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10), diagnostic codes, accuracy is important when describing the patient’s true health. A joint effort between the healthcare provider and the coder/biller is essential to achieve complete and accurate documentation, code assignment, and reporting of diagnoses and procedures.

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

These diagnosis codes are also used in determining the eligible population for the Comprehensive Diabetes Care quality measure and the threshold the member is held to in order to be in control for the Controlling High Blood Pressure quality measure.

ICD-10 Category E11* Diabetes Mellitus: Tips on How to Code using ICD-10 Codes

- ▶ Diabetes Mellitus is an HCC (Hierarchical Condition Category)
- ▶ 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 of the complications and associated conditions of the disease. These categories are listed below:

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

- ▶ 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. You would 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.
- ▶ If a member has been diagnosed with prediabetes, or has had a previous diagnosis of diabetes and the disease is now considered latent or dormant (per the provider’s documentation) the ICD-10 code R73.09, Other abnormal glucose, should be assigned. This code can be found under “Diabetes” and then “latent,” or under “Abnormal” and then “glucose” in the Alphabetical Index of the ICD-10 book.
- ▶ Diabetes codes are no longer classified as controlled or uncontrolled. Classifications such as inadequately controlled, out of control, poorly controlled, and uncontrolled are coded to *Diabetes, by type, with hyperglycemia* in the ICD-10 book.
- ▶ 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 in order 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.
- ▶ In order to link a manifestation/complication to the diabetes mellitus the documentation must clearly show that there is a causal effect of the disease to the associated manifestation. A coder cannot assume that there is a causal relationship between two diagnoses. One diagnosis code **MUST** be clearly documented in the medical record as being directly related to the other.

Examples: • Diabetic Nephropathy • CKD Due to DM • PVD Due to DM • PAD Due to DM • Diabetic Neuropathy • Peripheral Neuropathy Due to DM • Etiology of Neuropathy is DM • Diabetic Retinopathy • Diabetic Cataract • Diabetic Macular Edema

- ▶ 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.



CORRECTLY CODING: DIABETES MELLITUS

- ▶ ICD-10 Code Z79.4, **Long-term** (current) use of insulin should be assigned to indicate that 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).
- ▶ Diabetes Mellitus in pregnancy is coded using codes from category 024*.

ICD-10 Code Category	ICD-10 Description	Note:
024.0*	Pre-existing diabetes mellitus, type 1, in pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	Use additional code from category E10 to further identify any manifestations
024.1*	Pre-existing diabetes mellitus, type 2, in pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	Use additional code from category E11 to further identify any manifestations or to indicate long-term (current) use of insulin (Z79.4)
024.3*	Unspecified pre-existing diabetes mellitus, in pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium	Use additional code from category E11 to further identify any manifestation or to indicate long-term (current) use of insulin (Z79.4)
024.4*	Gestational diabetes mellitus	
024.8*	Other pre-existing diabetes mellitus in pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium	Use additional code from category E08, E09, and E13 to further identify any manifestation or to indicate long-term (current) use of insulin (Z79.4)
024.9*	Unspecified diabetes mellitus in pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium	Use additional code for long-term (current) use of insulin (Z79.4)

Assigning and sequencing diabetes codes and associated conditions:

Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus (Juvenile Diabetes)

Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus is an “insulin” dependent disease; therefore, DO NOT add the ICD-10 code Z79.4 (long term, current insulin use) with Type 1 Diabetes mellitus (Category E10* codes).

ICD-10 Code Category	ICD-10 Description	Assign this code when:
E10.9	Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus without complications	No complications are listed or documented as being directly related to the disease
E10.8	Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus with unspecified complications	The documentation states that there is a complication directly related to the disease but no specific complication has been listed
E10.10-E10.65	Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus with specified complications	The documentation clearly states that there is a complication directly related to the disease and the specific complication has been clearly documented
E10.69	Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus with other specified complications	The documented complication is not one that has been listed in the code range E10.10- E10.65. Also, you must use an additional code to identify the specific complication

There can be more than one complication associated with diabetes mellitus. Use all applicable ICD-10 codes needed to accurately code a patient's condition(s).

Example 1: Patient has Type 1 diabetes mellitus with diabetic polyneuropathy, diabetic nephropathy and nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema. The patient also uses insulin daily. Below is the correct coding for this patient's conditions:

ICD-10 Code Category	ICD-10 Description
E10.42	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with diabetic polyneuropathy
E10.21	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with diabetic nephropathy
E10.321	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with mild nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema

Note: The ICD-10 code for long term, current insulin use (Z79.4) would not be added in this case. The patient is a Type 1 (insulin dependent) diabetic and insulin use is “understood”.

Although most of the diabetes mellitus codes in ICD-10 include manifestations, specific ICD-10 diabetes mellitus require additional codes in order to identify the manifestation further.

Example 2: Patient has Type 1 diabetes with foot ulcer and diabetic chronic kidney disease stage 4. Below is the correct coding for this patient's conditions:

ICD-10 Code Category	ICD-10 Description
E10.621	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with foot ulcer
L97.509	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of unspecified foot with unspecified severity
E10.22	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with diabetic chronic kidney disease
N18.4	Chronic kidney disease, stage 4 (severe)



CORRECTLY CODING: DIABETES MELLITUS

Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

Type 2 Diabetes is not always an “insulin” dependent disease. The ICD-10 code Z79.4 (long-term, current, insulin use) should be clearly documented and coded if applicable.

ICD-10 Code Category	ICD-10 Description	Assign this code when:
E11.9	Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus without complications	No complications are listed or documented as being directly related to the disease
E11.8	Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus with unspecified complications	The documentation states that there is a complication directly related to the disease but no specific complication has been listed
E11.00-E11.65	Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus with specified complications	The documentation clearly states that there is a complication directly related to the disease and the specific complication has been clearly documented
E11.69	Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus with other specified complications	The documented complication is not one that has been listed in the code range E11.00-E11.65. Also, you must use an additional code to identify the specific complication

There can be more than one complication associated with diabetes mellitus. Use all applicable ICD-10 codes needed to accurately code a patient’s condition. Also remember to add ICD-10 code Z79.4 (long-term current use of insulin), if applicable

Example 1: Patient has Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic peripheral angiopathy without gangrene, diabetic nephropathy and diabetic dermatitis. The patient also takes insulin on a daily basis. Below is the correct coding for this patient’s conditions:

ICD-10 Code Category	ICD-10 Description
E11.51	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic peripheral angiopathy without gangrene
E11.21	Type2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic nephropathy
E11.620	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic dermatitis
Z79.4	Long term (current) use of insulin

Although most of the diabetes mellitus codes in ICD-10 include manifestations, specific ICD-10 diabetes mellitus require additional codes in order to identify the manifestation further.

Example 2: Member has Type 2 diabetes mellitus and is being evaluated for a chronic diabetic left foot ulcer with necrosis of muscle. The patient also takes insulin on a daily basis. Below is the correct coding for this patient’s conditions:

ICD-10 Code Category	ICD-10 Description
E11.621	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with foot ulcer
L97.523	Non-pressure chronic ulcer of other part of the left foot with necrosis of muscle
Z79.4	Long term (current) use of insulin

Note: In this document [] indicates an additional character(s) is required. Diabetes is located in the ICD-10 book in the Alphabetical Index to Diseases under Diabetes. Once the correct code is located in the Alphabetical Index, you should continue to the Tabular List of Diseases to confirm diagnosis assignment. Guidelines for coding and reporting Diabetes can be found in the ICD-10 Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting 2016.*



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