Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT)

It is important to accurately document and code deep vein thrombosis (DVT).

Documentation

Since coders cannot assume clot acuity, it is important that the provider defines the chronicity of the DVT as being **acute**, **chronic** or **recurrent**.

▶ **Chronic DVT** is a thrombus that is one month to several months old and usually involves symptoms, such as chronic edema, ulceration, cellulitis or other complications.

▶ **Recurrent DVT** indicates the condition has occurred more than once. **The provider would need to document recurrent or chronic DVT to code it as such**.

▶ Best practice documentation for a DVT includes:

- Site
- Laterality
- Chronicity
- Associated symptoms
- Treatment

▶ If a patient is on anticoagulation, document the therapy. If contraindicated, document medical decision making.

▶ If a DVT has completely resolved, document "history of DVT."

Coding Tips

DVT Diagnosis Codes	
Description	**Code**
Chronic embolism and thrombosis of deep veins of lower extremity	I82.50-
Chronic embolism and thrombosis of femoral veins	I82.51-
Chronic embolism and thrombosis of deep veins of iliac vein	I82.52-
Chronic embolism and thrombosis of deep veins of popliteal vein	I82.53-
Chronic embolism and thrombosis of deep veins of tibial vein	I82.54-
Chronic embolism and thrombosis of deep veins of peroneal vein	I82.55-
Chronic embolism and thrombosis of deep veins of calf muscular vein	I82.56-
Chronic embolism and thrombosis of deep veins of upper extremity	I82.72-

(-) Add 6th character:

1 – Right
2 – Left
3 – Bilateral
9 – Unspecified

Additional Codes to Remember:

▶ Z79.01 – Associated long-term (current) use of anticoagulants

▶ Z86.718 – Personal history of other venous thrombosis and embolism

For additional information, go to:
AlabamaBlue.com/Providers/CodingCorner

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