

Diabetes Mellitus Coding and Documentation Tips



ICD-10-CM Coding Guidance^{1,2}

Documentation should specify the type of diabetes, the body system affected, and the complications affecting that body system. When coding diabetes mellitus, use as many codes within a particular category (E08–E13) as necessary to describe all complications and associated conditions of the disease.

Category	Description	Instructional Notes
E08	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition	Code first the underlying condition. Use additional code to identify control agent.
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. Use additional code to identify control agent.
E10	Type 1 diabetes mellitus	Codes E10.A-, Type 1 diabetes mellitus, presymptomatic, are assigned for early-stage type 1 diabetes that predates the onset of symptoms.
E11	Type 2 diabetes mellitus	Use a code from category E11 when type of diabetes is not documented. Use additional code to identify control agent.
E13	Other specified diabetes mellitus	Use additional code to identify control agent.
O24	Diabetes mellitus in pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium	Use additional code from category E08–E13 to identify any manifestation. Use additional code to identify control agent.

Use additional code to identify the use of insulin, oral hypoglycemics and/or injectable non-insulin drugs, if documented:

- ▶ Z79.4, long-term (current) use of insulin
- ▶ Z79.84, long-term (current) use of oral hypoglycemic drugs
- ▶ Z79.85, long-term (current) use of injectable non-insulin antidiabetic drugs

If diabetes with hypoglycemia is documented, **use additional code** to identify level, if known:

- ▶ E16.A1, hypoglycemia level 1 (mild): Blood glucose is less than 70 mg/dL but at least 54 mg/dL
- ▶ E16.A2, hypoglycemia level 2 (moderate): Blood glucose is less than 54 mg/dL
- ▶ E16.A3, hypoglycemia level 3 (severe): Unable to function due to mental or physical changes caused by low blood glucose

¹<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2025-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf>

²FY2025 ICD-10-CM Files including the Alphabetic Index and Tabular List are found at https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Publications/ICD10CM/2025/

Diabetic Complications

Conditions listed after the term “with” in the alphabetic index have a presumed causal relationship and do not have to be linked by the provider.

- ▶ Do not link conditions when documentation clearly states they are unrelated or when another guideline exists that specifically requires a documented linkage between two conditions.
- ▶ For conditions not specifically linked by the relational term “with” the provider documentation must link the conditions in order to code them as related.

Complication	Conditions with Assumed Relationship	Link between diabetes and condition must be documented
Metabolic	hyperosmolarity, ketoacidosis	
Kidney	chronic kidney disease, glomerulonephritis, glomerulosclerosis, Kimmelsteil-Wilson disease, nephropathy, renal tubular degeneration	Renal complications NEC microalbuminuria, proteinuria
Ophthalmic	cataract, retinopathy, macular edema, retinal detachment	Ophthalmic complication NEC blindness, glaucoma, retinal ischemia, vitreous hemorrhage, rubeosis iridis
Neurological	amyotrophy, autonomic (poly)neuropathy, gastroparalysis, gastroparesis, Loss of Protective Sensation (LOPS), mononeuropathy, myasthenia, neuralgia, neuropathy, polyneuropathy	Neurologic complication NEC cranial nerve palsy, neuropathic ulcer
Circulatory	gangrene, peripheral angiopathy, (PVD/PAD)	Circulatory complication NEC coronary artery disease, hypertension
Other	Charcot’s joints, dermatitis, foot ulcer, hyperglycemia, hypoglycemia, necrobiosis lipoidica, neuropathic arthropathy, osteomyelitis, periodontal disease	Arthropathy NEC, Oral complication NEC, Skin complication NEC, Other specified complication NEC cellulitis, erectile dysfunction, obesity, high cholesterol

Other instructional notes applicable to the complication subcategory, include:

Use 7th character

to designate laterality:

- 1** — right
- 2** — left
- 3** — bilateral
- 9** — unspecified

Use additional code to identify:

- ▶ Stage of chronic kidney disease
- ▶ Manifestation such as diabetic glaucoma
- ▶ Site of foot or other skin ulcer
- ▶ Hypoglycemia level, if applicable
- ▶ Other complication