Diabetes mellitus

Documentation and coding: Individual & Family Plans

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For coding education questions, email CignaHealthcareHCPEducation@CignaHealthcare.com.

It's important to accurately document and code diagnoses when submitting claims for your patients with Cigna Healthcare-administered coverage. This helps ensure your diagnosis and coding practices comply with all applicable legal requirements,* while enabling us to provide our customers with the benefits and resources they need. For additional information and resources, visit the Cigna Healthcare Individual & Family Plans page at CignaforHCP.com/IFP.

The information that follows is designed to provide guidance for the documentation and coding of claims for your patients with diabetes mellitus. It is not meant to replace your judgment when caring for your patients.

Character definitions

- 3rd character: Type of diabetes mellitus | 4th character: Subclassifications
- 5th character: Body system and complication | 6th character: Body system and complication

General guidance

- If a patient has uncontrolled or abnormal blood sugar, diabetes mellitus must be stated in documentation as either hyperglycemia or hypoglycemia for accurate code correlation.
- In most cases, use a combination code to report diabetes mellitus with a complication (e.g., diabetes mellitus with chronic kidney disease) along with *an additional code to report the disease stage (e.g., the chronic kidney disease stage, when applicable).*
- Assign as many International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD-10) codes from E08 to E13 as needed to identify ALL of the associated conditions.**
- Nonspecific codes may be rejected.
- Code current or long-term use of insulin as Z79.4. **Note:** There is no additional insulin code for type 1 diabetes mellitus.
- If unsure of the diagnosis, code the condition to the highest level of certainty.
- Illustrate the cause-and-effect relationship with conclusive linking words such as, "as a result of," "resulting in," "caused by," "due to," and "associated with."

  Example: Hyperlipidemia due to diabetes.

  Avoid using words such as, "probably," "suspected," or "likely."
- Create an assessment, treatment plan, and follow up for each diagnosis.
- Use E08 codes for diabetes due to underlying conditions (e.g., malnutrition, malignant neoplasm, liver disease).
- Use E09 codes for drug- or chemical-induced diabetes, such as steroid-induced diabetes. Use additional code to identify the drug or chemical, associated poisoning, and adverse effects.
- Use E13 codes for other specified types of diabetes, such as diabetes type 1.5.**
- For diabetes complicating pregnancy, refer to ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting guidelines, sections I.C.15.g and I.C.15.i.***

Diabetes mellitus

ICD-10 code	Description	Additional characters and codes to use	
E10.2-	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with kidney complication	*For type 2, use additional code to identify insulin use (Z79.4).* (-) Add 5th character:	
E11.2-	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with kidney complication	2 – Diabetic chronic kidney disease *Use additional code to identify stage of chronic kidney disease (N18.1–N18.6.)*	9 – Other diabetic kidney complication

Diabetes mellitus *(continued)*

ICD-10 code	Description	Additional characters and codes to use
E10.3-	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with ophthalmic complication	*For type 2, use additional code to identify insulin use (Z79.4).* (-) Add 5th and 6th characters:
E11.3-	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with ophthalmic complication	6 – With diabetic cataract 9 – With other diabetic ophthalmic complications *Use additional code to identify glaucoma (H40–H42).* 11 – Unspecified diabetic retinopathy with macular edema 19 – Unspecified diabetic retinopathy without macular edema 21 – Mild nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema 29 – Mild nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema 31 – Moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema 39 – Moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema 41 – Severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema 49 – Severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema 51 – Proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema 59 – Proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema
E10.4-	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with neurological complication	*For type 2, use additional code to identify insulin use (Z79.4).* (-) Add 5th character:
E11.4-	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with neurological complication	0 – Diabetic neuropathy, unspecified 1 – Diabetic mononeuropathy 2 – Diabetic polyneuropathy 3 – Diabetic autonomic (poly)neuropathy (gastroparesis) 4 – Diabetic amyotrophy 9 – Other diabetic neurological complication
E10.5-	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with circulatory complication	*For type 2, use additional code to identify insulin use (Z79.4).* (-) Add 5th character:
E11.5-	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with circulatory complication	1 – Diabetic peripheral angiopathy without gangrene 2 – Diabetic peripheral angiopathy with gangrene 9 – With other circulatory complications
E10.6-	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with other specified complication	*For type 2, use additional code to identify insulin use (Z79.4).* (-) Add 5th and 6th characters:
E11.6-	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with other specified complication	5 – With hyperglycemia 9 – With other specified complication *Use additional code to identify complication* 10 – Diabetic neuropathic arthropathy 20 – Diabetic dermatitis 21 – With foot ulcer *Use additional code for ulcer site (L97.4, L97.5).* 22 – With other skin ulcers *Use additional code for ulcer site (L97.-, L98.-).* 28 – With other skin complications 30 – With periodontal disease 38 – With other oral complications 41 – With hypoglycemia with coma 49 – With hypoglycemia without coma
E10.8	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with unspecified complication	
E11.8	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with unspecified complication	*Use additional code to identify insulin use (Z79.4).*
E10.9	Type 1 diabetes mellitus without complications	
E11.9	Type 2 diabetes mellitus without complications	*Use additional code to identify insulin use (Z79.4).*
Z79.4	Long-term (current) use of insulin	
Z79.84	Long-term use of oral hypoglycemic drugs, long-term use of oral antidiabetic drugs	
Z79.85	Long-term use of injectable non-insulin antidiabetic drugs (e.g., Ozempic®, Trulicity®, Victoza®, etc.)	

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