

# Myocardial infarction

## Documentation and coding: Individual & Family Plans

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**For coding education questions**, email [CignaHealthcareHCPEducation@CignaHealthcare.com](mailto: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](https://CignaforHCP.com/IFP).

*The information that follows is designed to provide guidance for the documentation and coding of claims for your patients with a myocardial infarction diagnosis. It is not meant to replace your judgment when caring for your patients.*

### Myocardial infarction definition

Myocardial infarction is the death of myocardial tissue. It is usually caused by a blocked coronary artery and is often caused by the buildup of fat, cholesterol, and other substances.\*\*

There are two types of myocardial infarction:

- ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI)
- Non-ST-elevation myocardial infarction (NSTEMI)

### Prevalence and statistics\*\*\*

In the United States:

- Every 40 seconds, someone has a heart attack
- Every 33 seconds, one person dies from cardiovascular disease.

### Documentation and coding

- Document findings to support diagnoses of acute myocardial infarction with specific details (NSTEMI, STEMI, location, laterality, etc.)
- Document a diagnostic statement that is compatible with International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD-10) nomenclature.
- Document the treatment plan and follow up. A treatment plan can be in the form of a medication, referral, diet, monitoring, and/or ordering a diagnostic exam.
- Is the patient continuing or on a vasodilator?
- Is the patient experiencing continued symptoms?
- Pay careful attention to the specific body systems that are affected as a result of the acute myocardial infarction.

### Considerations

- Did the acute myocardial infarction occur within 28 days of a myocardial infarction?
- Use codes for all conditions related to the myocardial infarction.
- Is the patient currently having a myocardial infarction? If not, consider a historical myocardial infarction diagnosis.
- Remember that an acute myocardial infarction typically incurs inpatient treatment.
- Are there any conditions related to the myocardial infarction that should be addressed?

### ICD-10 myocardial infarction categories

- **Acute myocardial infarction: ICD-10 I21.9**  
Use only during the inpatient encounter as determined by diagnostic studies.
- **Old myocardial infarction: ICD-10 I25.2**  
Use when there are no identifiable manifestations of acute myocardial infarction after four weeks.
- **Subsequent STEMI or NSTEMI: I22.0-I22.9**  
Use when the patient suffered a prior acute myocardial infarction within four weeks of the initial acute myocardial infarction.
- **Complications of STEMI and NSTEMI: ICD-10 I23-**  
Use when a complication (such as hemopericardium or septal defect), has occurred within 28 days of the myocardial infarction.
- **Post-infarction angina: ICD-10 I23.7 and I25.118**  
Use both codes to indicate atherosclerotic coronary artery disease and post old myocardial infarction.

\* Diagnosis inaccuracies that are not addressed can result in administrative sanctions and potential financial penalties.

\*\* "Heart attack." Mayo Clinic. 21 May 2022. Retrieved from <https://www.MayoClinic.org/diseases-conditions/heart-attack/symptoms-causes/syc-20373106>.

\*\*\* "Heart Disease Facts." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 15 May 2023. Retrieved from <https://www.CDC.gov/heartdisease/facts.htm>.

## Documentation of STEMI or NSTEMI

Document	STEMI or NSTEMI
<b>Exact date of myocardial infarction occurrence</b>	Subsequent myocardial infarctions are defined as occurring within four weeks (28 days) of the initial occurrence.
<b>Specific artery or site involved</b>	For STEMI, specific artery involved, or site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anterior wall (left main, left anterior descending, other)</li> <li>• Inferior wall (right coronary artery, other)</li> <li>• Other artery or site involved</li> </ul> For NSTEMI: No additional documentation is needed.
<b>Delineate</b>	An acute coronary syndrome or acute ischemic heart disease from a true myocardial infarction

ICD-10 code	Description
<b>I21.01</b>	ST elevation (STEMI) of anterior wall involving left main coronary artery
<b>I21.02</b>	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of anterior wall involving left anterior descending coronary artery (or diagonal coronary artery)
<b>I21.09</b>	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of anterior wall involving other coronary artery of anterior wall
<b>I21.11</b>	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of inferior wall involving right coronary artery
<b>I21.19</b>	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction involving other coronary artery of inferior wall
<b>I21.21</b>	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of other sites involving left circumflex coronary artery
<b>I21.29</b>	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of other sites
<b>I21.3</b>	ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of unspecified site (if no other documentation from specialist notes or hospital inpatient stay provides specificity)
<b>I21.4</b>	Non-ST elevation (NSTEMI) myocardial infarction
<b>I21.9</b>	Acute myocardial infarction, unspecified (if no other documentation from specialist notes or hospital inpatient stay provides specificity)
<b>I21.A1</b>	Myocardial infarction type 2 (code first the underlying cause)
<b>I21.A9</b>	Other myocardial infarction type (e.g., 3, 4a, t). Code first post procedural or complication.
<b>I22.0</b>	Subsequent ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of anterior wall
<b>I22.1</b>	Subsequent ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of inferior wall
<b>I22.2</b>	Subsequent Non-ST elevation (NSTEMI) myocardial infarction
<b>I22.8</b>	Subsequent ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of other sites
<b>I22.9</b>	Subsequent ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of unspecified site (if no other documentation from specialist notes or hospital inpatient stay provides specificity)
<b>I25.2</b>	Old myocardial infarction
<b>I23.7</b>	Post-infarction angina
<b>I25.118</b>	Atherosclerotic disease related to other forms of angina