

Documentation and coding tips: Diabetes

Many diabetes mellitus (DM) codes are combination codes that are assigned based on the specificity of the documentation. Document all associated complications the patient has in order to paint an accurate picture of your patient and so that all appropriate diagnosis codes can be assigned. For diabetes and conditions not specifically linked by relational terms such as “with” or “in” in the ICD-10-CM Index, provider documentation must link the conditions (due to, diabetic, etc.) in order to code them as related.¹


When documenting diabetes, specify (if applicable):

- **Type:** For example, Type 1 or Type 2. Diabetes that is documented without specifying the type is presumed as Type 2 per ICD-10-CM guidelines.
- **Complications:** Such as chronic kidney disease (CKD) (include stage), nephropathy, retinopathy (proliferative or nonproliferative), cataract, neuropathy (mononeuropathy or polyneuropathy), peripheral angiopathy (peripheral arterial disease [PAD], peripheral vascular disease [PVD], atherosclerosis) (location, laterality, manifestations), ulcer (type, site, laterality, depth, stage), dermatitis, arthropathy, etc.
- **Evaluative documentation:** How each condition is being addressed or treated
- **Control status:** Such as hypoglycemia or hyperglycemia (inadequately controlled, out of control or poorly controlled)
- **Treatment:** Such as long-term (current) use of insulin (**Z79.4**) and/or oral antidiabetic or hypoglycemic drugs (Z79.84) and/or injectable non-insulin antidiabetic drugs (Z79.85)

Type 2 diabetes codes and descriptions

E11.2-	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with kidney complications
E11.21	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic nephropathy
E11.22	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic chronic kidney disease
Use additional code to identify stage of chronic kidney disease (N18.1 – N18.6)	
N18.1	Chronic kidney disease, stage 1
N18.2	Chronic kidney disease, stage 2 (mild)
N18.30	Chronic kidney disease, stage 3 unspecified
N18.31	Chronic kidney disease, stage 3a
N18.32	Chronic kidney disease, stage 3b
N18.4	Chronic kidney disease, stage 4 (severe)
N18.5	Chronic kidney disease, stage 5
N18.6	End-stage renal disease
Use additional code to identify dialysis status (Z99.2)	
N18.9	Chronic kidney disease, unspecified
E11.29	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with other diabetic kidney complication
Use additional code and linking terms to identify complication	
E11.3-	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with ophthalmic complications
For E11.32- , E11.33- , E11.34- , E11.35- and E11.37- , add 7th character: 1=right eye, 2=left eye, 3=bilateral, 9=unspecified eye	
E11.311	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with unspecified diabetic retinopathy with macular edema
E11.319	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with unspecified diabetic retinopathy without macular edema
E11.321-	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with mild nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema
E11.329-	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with mild nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema
E11.331-	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema
E11.339-	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema
E11.341-	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema
E11.349-	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema
E11.351-	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema
E11.352-	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment involving the macula
E11.353-	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with traction retinal detachment not involving the macula
E11.354-	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy with combined traction retinal detachment and rhegmatogenous retinal detachment
E11.355-	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with stable proliferative diabetic retinopathy
E11.359-	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with proliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema
E11.36	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic cataract (including age-related or senile cataract) ²

E11.37-	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic macular edema, resolved following treatment
E11.39	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with other diabetic ophthalmic complication
Use additional code and linking terms to identify manifestation, such as: diabetic glaucoma (H40.- – H42)	
E11.4-	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with neurological complications
E11.40	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic neuropathy, unspecified
E11.41	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic mononeuropathy
E11.42	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic polyneuropathy
E11.43	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic autonomic (poly)neuropathy
E11.44	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic amyotrophy
E11.49	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with other diabetic neurological complication
Use additional code and linking terms to identify complication	
E11.5-	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with circulatory complications
E11.51	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic peripheral angiopathy without gangrene
E11.52	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic peripheral angiopathy with gangrene
E11.59	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with other circulatory complications
Use additional code and linking terms to identify complication	
E11.6-	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with other specified complications
E11.610	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic neuropathic arthropathy
E11.618	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with other diabetic arthropathy
E11.620	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic dermatitis
E11.621	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with foot ulcer
Use additional code to identify site of ulcer (L97.4-, L97.5-)	
E11.622	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with other skin ulcer
Use additional code to identify site of ulcer (L97.1- – L97.9-, L98.41- – L98.49-)	
E11.628	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with other skin complications
E11.630	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with periodontal disease
E11.638	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with other oral complications
E11.641	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with hypoglycemia with coma
E11.649	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with hypoglycemia without coma
E11.65	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with hyperglycemia
E11.69	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with other specified complication
Use additional code and linking terms to identify complication	
E11.8	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with unspecified complications
E11.9	Type 2 diabetes mellitus without complications

 For Type 1 diabetes codes, use a zero for the third character in the above codes in this table, example E10.-.

Documentation and coding examples

Type 1 diabetes mellitus with CKD

Patient has Type 1 DM, well controlled, continue current meds. CKD stage 3a, eGFR is 46. Return to office in six weeks for additional bloodwork.

- **E10.22** Type 1 DM with diabetic CKD
- **N18.31** Chronic kidney disease, stage 3a

Cataracts and Type 1 diabetes²

70 y/o female here for pre-op check. She is scheduled for surgery in three weeks for bilateral senile cataracts³. She is a Type 1 diabetic currently under good control with insulin. Cleared for surgery.

- **E10.36** Type 1 DM with diabetic cataract
- **H25.9** Unspecified age-related cataract

Type 2 DM with polyneuropathy

66 y/o male presents for foot check. He has Type 2 diabetes, poorly controlled, and bilateral polyneuropathy.

- **E11.42** Type 2 DM with diabetic polyneuropathy
- **E11.65** Type 2 DM with hyperglycemia

Peripheral angiopathy and DM

Diabetic patient returns to clinic for updated referral to specialist for peripheral angiopathy. Ankle-Brachial Index (ABI) done here today, and left great toe amputation site checked, looks good. New referral given.

- **E11.51** Type 2 DM with diabetic peripheral angiopathy
- **Z89.412** Acquired absence of left great toe

Per the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2024: “A dash (-) at the end of an Alphabetic Index entry indicates that additional characters are required. Even if a dash is not included at the Alphabetic Index entry, it is necessary to refer to the Tabular List to verify that no 7th character is required.” The bolding of the ICD-10-CM codes represents categories, subcategories or codes that map to the CMS-HCC risk adjustment model for payment year 2024: [Announcement of Calendar Year \(CY\) 2024 Medicare Advantage \(MA\) Capitation Rates and Part C and Part D Payment Policies \(cms.gov\)](#).

The following references were used in the creation of this document at time of publication:

- Optum360. *ICD-10-CM: Professional for Physicians 2023*. Salt Lake City, UT: Optum360; 2024.

1. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). [ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2024](#). Accessed February 23, 2024.
2. AHA Coding Clinic. 2019; Q2:30.



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This tool is to be used for easy reference; however, the current ICD-10-CM code classification and the Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting are the authoritative references for accurate and complete coding. The information presented herein is for general informational purposes only. Neither Optum nor its affiliates warrant or represent that the information contained herein is complete, accurate or free from defects. Specific documentation is reflective of the “thought process” of the provider when treating patients. All conditions affecting the care, treatment or management of the patient should be documented with their status and treatment plan and coded to the highest level of specificity. Enhanced precision and accuracy in the codes selected is the ultimate goal. Lastly, on April 1, 2024, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that 2024 dates of service for the 2025 payment year model are based on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Announcement. [Announcement of Calendar Year \(CY\) 2025 Medicare Advantage \(MA\) Capitation Rates and Part C and Part D Payment Policies \(cms.gov\)](#).

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