Diabetes Coding Reference

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Problem and Goal

Problem

- TriCore received conflicting diagnoses (Dx) codes that should not be reported together.

Goal

- To provide a general understanding of ICD-10-CM diagnosis coding guidelines in order for TriCore to receive diagnoses to describe the patient's condition without conflicting information.

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Diabetes (DM) Diagnosis Conflicts

DM with or without complications

- Does the patient have diabetes related complications?
  - For example, DM type 2 with diabetic polyneuropathy **or** DM type 2 without complications, not both

- Does the patient have diabetes with hyperglycemia?
  - Report the appropriate combination code rather than reporting diabetes and hyperglycemia separately.*

*Per ICD-10-CM coding guidelines

- Assign only the combination code when that code fully identifies the diagnostic conditions involved or when the Alphabetic Index so directs.

- Multiple coding should not be used when the classification provides a combination code that clearly identifies all of the elements documented in the diagnosis.

- When the combination code lacks necessary specificity in describing the manifestation or complication, an additional code should be used as a secondary code.

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Diabetes (DM) Diagnosis Conflicts

Providing a Dx for diabetes and a Dx for impaired glucose

- Per ICD-10-CM coding guidelines, a Dx for diabetes should not be reported with impaired fasting glucose.

Report only the patient's current DM condition(s) based on documentation in the medical records.

- Which Dx best describes the patient's condition based on documentation in the patient's medical records for the date of service?
  - For example, DM **or** prediabetes, not both

DM Type

- Which Dx best describes the DM type documented in the patient's medical records for the date of service?
  - For example, DM Type 1 without complications **or** DM type 2 with hyperglycemia, not both
  - Does the patient have diabetes complications?

This is not an all-inclusive list of coding guidelines and instructions.

These are examples only and TriCore does not encourage use of these codes unless they describe the patient's condition and are documented in the patient's chart.

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Resources

- Please refer to ICD-10-CM Coding Book and Guidelines for further guidance
  - ICD-10-CM coding book download

    https://www.cms.gov/medicare/icd-10/2021-icd-10-cm

  - ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines

    https://www.cms.gov/files/document/2021-coding-guidelines.pdf

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