

Quality Documentation & Coding Pearls

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DIABETES MELLITUS

Diabetes is a serious health condition that affects many of our patients. Its prevalence is increasing as our population ages and becomes more obese.



In order to most accurately diagnose your patients with diabetes, you must look for manifestations in your records and the **qHMO member summary report** (which should be printed every time you see your AZPC members). Commonly seen manifestations are:

- **Renal:** CKD I-V
- **Ophthalmic:** retinopathy, cataracts, glaucoma
- **Neurological :** peripheral neuropathy, autonomic neuropathy, gastroparesis
- **Peripheral circulatory:** PVD or Atherosclerosis of Extremities
- **Other specified manifestations:** CAD, HTN, stroke, dyslipidemia (high trig/lowHDL), ED, onychomycosis

When diagnosing DM with a manifestation you must also diagnose what the manifestation is and state that it is “linked” to diabetes. You do this through your documentation. Examples are:

- CKD worsened by DM
- Diabetic retinopathy
- Gastroparesis caused by DM
- PVD due to DM
- CAD partially due to DM
- HTN complicated by DM

Check your patient’s feet for PVD, neuropathy and ulcers! Check labs for CKD or dyslipidemia. Send your patients for their yearly retinal eye exam.

*Don’t forget to **VALIDATE: DIAGNOSIS, STATUS & PLAN***

*Call the Arizona Priority Care HCC/STAR department with questions:
(480) 499-8706*

CODING TIPS

250.xx =DM

The 4th digit adds specificity and RAF

250.4 = w/ renal manif.

250.5 = w/ ophthalmic manif.

250.6 = w/ neurological manif

250.7 = w/ peripheral circulatory manifestations

250.8 = w/ other specified manifestations

The 5th digit denotes level of control which can change throughout the year.

0 = type II controlled

2 = type II uncontrolled

STAR MEASURES FOR DIABETES CARE

Kidney Disease Monitoring

Order a urine microalbumin. If the patient is already being treated with ACE/ARB or is being seen by a nephrologist, then document in the chart and submit CPT II code 3066F.

Blood Sugar Control

Order a HgbA1c and send patient to Sonora Quest. Treat patient aggressively until they achieve a level of less than 9.0%.

Retinal Eye Exam

Send patients to Southwestern Eye for an exam or if the exam was negative last year, document this in your note and submit CPTII code 3072F.

BP goal is < 140/90 for all diabetic patients.

Always encourage medication adherence!

