

Coding and Documentation Tips for Diabetes Mellitus (DM)

ICD-10	When applicable, document diabetic complications using a linkage term (e.g., due to DM, associated with DM, secondary to DM, diabetic) to establish a causal relationship.	
E11.2 -	Type 2 DM with diabetic kidney complications	All DM complications MUST be clearly documented to reflect the cause-and-effect relationship.
E11.3 -	Type 2 DM with diabetic ophthalmic complications	
E11.4 -	Type 2 DM with diabetic neurological complications	
E11.5 -	Type 2 DM with circulatory complications	
E11.6 -	Type 2 DM with other specified complications*	

Documentation Best Practices:

- **Type of Diabetes:** Secondary to underlying conditions (E08.-), drug-induced (E09.-), Type 1 (E10.-), Type 2 (E11.-), and Type 1.5 or latent autoimmune diabetes in adults (LADA) (E13.-)
- **Type 2 DM without complications in remission defined as**:**
 - Must have a documented history of Type 2 diabetes
 - No current use of diabetes medications
 - HbA1C levels below 6.5% for at least three months
 - Absence of diabetes-related complications
 - Remission must be achieved and maintained after stopping all glucose-lowering medications
 - If HbA1C is unreliable, a fasting plasma glucose (FPG) below 126 mg/dL or an estimated HbA1C from continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) can be used.
- **Diabetes with complications:** A cause-and-effect relationship must be clearly documented to correctly code a diabetic complication (e.g., diabetic, due to, associated with, secondary to, complicated by).
- **DM Coding Scenarios:**

Diabetic chronic kidney disease (CKD), stage 4	E11.22, N18.4
Glaucoma due to DM	E11.39, H42
Hypertension associated with DM	E11.59, I10
Hyperlipidemia secondary to DM	E11.69, E78.5

- Assign as many (E11.-) codes as needed to identify all the manifestations/body systems affected.
- Document the supporting clinical evidence or clinical indicator (e.g., signs and symptoms, physical exam, test results or records reviewed to describe how the patient's conditions affect care management, treatment responses, quality of life or medical decision-making).
 - Take blood pressure (BP), weight and body mass index (BMI) during every visit (for adults).
 - Normal BP is defined as <120 mm Hg systolic and <80 mm Hg diastolic
 - Elevated BP is 120–129 mm Hg systolic and <80 mm Hg diastolic
 - Stage 1 hypertension (HTN): 130–139 mm Hg systolic and 80–89 mm Hg diastolic
 - Stage 2 HTN as ≥140 mm Hg systolic or ≥90 mm Hg diastolic.
 - For BP ≥140/90 mm Hg, document repeat BP measurement during the same visit.

For complete codes and all applicable coding instructions, refer to the current ICD-10-CM Alphabetic Index and Tabular List.

ICD-10	When applicable, document diabetic complications using a linkage term (e.g., due to DM, associated with DM, secondary to DM, diabetic) to establish a causal relationship.	
E11.A**	Type 2 DM without complications in remission	
E11.9	Type 2 DM without complications	
Z79.4	Long-term (current) use of insulin	
Z79.84	Long-term (current) use of oral antidiabetic and hypoglycemic drugs	
Z79.85	Long-term (current) use of injectable noninsulin antidiabetic drugs	
E11.21	Type 2 DM with diabetic nephropathy	Type 2 diabetes with kidney complications
E11.22	Type 2 DM with diabetic CKD	<p>← Document additional diagnosis/code to identify stage of chronic kidney disease (N18.1-N18.6)</p> <p>Reference latest estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) and urine albumin or urine albumin-to-creatinine ratio (UACR)</p> <p>← CKD stage 5 requiring chronic dialysis. Document additional diagnosis/code to identify dialysis status (Z99.2)</p>
	CKD, stage 1	
	CKD, stage 2 (mild)	
	CKD, stage 3 (moderate, unspecified)	
	CKD, stage 3A	
	CKD, stage 3B	
	CKD, stage 4 (severe)	
	CKD, stage 5	
	End-stage renal disease (ESRD)	
	Dependence on renal dialysis	
E11.29*	Type 2 DM with other diabetic kidney complications Document the linkage term between complications and DM.	
E11.31-*	Type 2 DM with unspecified diabetic retinopathy	<p>Type 2 diabetes with ophthalmic complications Document annual dilated eye exam date and results.</p> <p>*Requires sixth character to identify complication 1 — with macular edema 9 — without macular edema</p>
E11.32-*	Type 2 DM with mild nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy	<p>*Requires seventh character to designate laterality 1- right eye, 2- left eye, 3- bilateral, 9- unspecified</p>
E11.33-*	Type 2 DM with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy	
E11.34-*	Type 2 DM with severe nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy	
E11.35-*	Type 2 DM with proliferative diabetic retinopathy	
E11.36*	Type 2 DM with diabetic cataract	Type 2 diabetes with ophthalmic complications
E11.39*	Type 2 DM with other diabetic ophthalmic complications Document the linkage term between complications and DM.	

***Note:** “Other” or “other specified” are for use when the information in the medical records provides detail for which a specific code does not exist.

****Note:** New ICD-10-CM codes effective October 1, 2025–September 30, 2026 (fiscal year 2026 ICD-10 update)

References

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