

Risk Coding Tips and Tools

Immunodeficiency Status Codes

An immunocompromised state refers to the weakened condition of an individual's immune system that makes it more difficult to fight infections and other diseases. Treating patients who are immunocompromised poses greater risks and challenges.

Immunodeficiency due to conditions classified elsewhere. (D84.81)

Immunocompromised state due to specific medical condition(s) such as certain cancers, genetic disorders, end stage renal disease, and poor glycemic control diabetes mellitus.

- Hyperglycemia in diabetes mellitus. Patients tend to have worse outcomes due to immune system dysfunction, especially those that already have long term complications.
- End stage renal disease. Uremia associated immunosuppression contributes to a high prevalence of infections.

It is not appropriate to assign immunodeficiency due to conditions classified elsewhere together with HIV disease, since it is part of the clinical picture and code B20 captures the full immunocompromised state.

Immunodeficiency due to drugs. (D84.821) Due to medications that interfere with the immune system; includes but is not limited to immunosuppressants, corticosteroids, monoclonal antibodies, and chemotherapy.

- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Chemotherapy
- Organ transplant rejection

Immunodeficiency due to external causes. (D84.822) Such as exposure to ionizing radiation or due to bone marrow transplant.

- Lymphoma treated with bone marrow ablation before bone marrow transplant causing secondary immunodeficiency.
- Asplenia due to splenectomy after spleen injury.

You can find this resource and others like it in the OHN Risk Coding Corner at www.OrlandoHealth.com/Network/Resources.

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Physician Documentation Examples

Example 1: Immunodeficiency due to drugs (D84.821)

Female patient seen in the ER for cellulitis of 2 fingers of right hand. Admitted to start IV antibiotics due to having immunocompromised state caused by immunosuppressant medication that she takes for SLE.

Assessment

L03.011 Cellulitis of right finger (principal diagnosis)
M32.9 Systemic lupus erythematosus, unspecified
D84.821 Immunodeficiency due to drugs
Z79.899 Other long-term (current) drug therapy

Example 2: Immunodeficiency due to conditions classified elsewhere (D84.81)

Female patient with type 2 diabetes and chronic hyperglycemia, comes to ER complaining of worsened pain on left diabetic foot ulcer. Has been treated with oral antibiotics by PCP. Labs with WBC elevated, HbA1C 14% and left foot imaging shows osteomyelitis. Despite being treated in ER with IV antibiotics, infectious disease recommends amputation due to immunosuppressant state secondary to poor controlled diabetes. Patient to be admitted and awaiting procedure.

Assessment

E11.621 Type 2 diabetes mellitus with foot ulcer
L97.529 Non-pressure chronic ulcer of left foot
E11.69 Type 2 diabetes with other specified complication
M86.172 Other acute osteomyelitis, left foot
E11.65 Type 2 diabetes mellitus with hyperglycemia
D84.81 Immunodeficiency due to conditions classified elsewhere

References:

1. <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/is-copd-considered-immunocompromised>
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3. <https://www.verywellhealth.com/different-causes-of-immunosuppression-explained-4047405>
4. <https://cjasn.asnjournals.org/content/3/5/1526>
5. <https://www.diabetesdaily.com/blog/are-people-with-diabetes-immunocompromised-650981/>
6. <https://intellisq.com/immunodeficiency-status-codes/>
7. https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/health_statistics/nchs/Publications/ICD10CM/CM-%20Committee/Immunodeficiency%20Status.pdf
8. Optum 360. (2022). *ICD-10-CM Expert for Physicians: The complete official code set*. Optum 360.

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