

Risk Coding Tips and Tools

Peripheral Vascular Disease

As healthcare reimbursement increasingly shifts its focus to Risk Adjustment and Encounter Data, it is our goal to support our physicians as they continue to provide quality care to our patients. This GEM information will assist you in more fully supporting diagnoses within the patient encounter through Documentation Improvement guidance.

- “Peripheral Vascular Disease “ is a broad term and a vague diagnosis; therefore, documentation should be as specific as possible to describe the particular type of peripheral vascular disease and identify all related manifestations.
- “Peripheral arterial disease (PAD),” “peripheral vascular disease (PVD),” “spasm of artery” and “intermittent claudication” are coded as I73.9.
- It is important to note that this code excludes atherosclerosis of the extremities (I70.2- – I70.7-). Arteriosclerosis and atherosclerosis may be used interchangeably for documentation and coding purposes.
- When atherosclerosis (arteriosclerosis) is diagnosed by the clinician, the progress note should state “arteriosclerosis of” and the site including laterality, “arteriosclerotic” or “arteriosclerosis with” followed by the symptom or complication (for example, arteriosclerosis of the legs with intermittent claudication bilaterally).
- Atherosclerotic disease is a progressive disease. Therefore, avoid documenting “history of peripheral vascular disease” and instead consider “known peripheral arterial disease.”
- ICD-10-CM presumes a causal relationship between “diabetes” with “peripheral angiopathy.” These conditions should be coded as related even in the absence of provider documentation explicitly linking them, unless documentation clearly states the conditions are unrelated. If the patient has atherosclerosis of native arteries of extremities, use an additional code to provide additional details such as laterality and manifestations.

Reference: <https://www.healthline.com/health/peripheral-vascular-disease>

You can also contact us at RiskCoding@OrlandoHealth.com for additional questions or support needs.

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Physician Documentation Example	ICD-10 Codes
<p><u>When PAD or atherosclerosis of the native arteries of the extremities is documented with diabetes, report the following combination code:</u> Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic peripheral angiopathy without gangrene</p>	E11.51
<p><u>If a patient is documented as having diabetic PAD (or atherosclerosis of the native arteries of the extremities) with gangrene, report the following combination code:</u> Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic peripheral angiopathy with gangrene</p>	E11.52

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Physician Documentation Example	ICD-10 Codes
Unspecified atherosclerosis of native arteries of extremities » Use a 6th character to identify laterality and/or location: (1) right leg, (2) left leg, (3) bilateral legs, (8) other extremity, (9) unspecified extremity	I70.20-
Atherosclerosis of native arteries of extremities with intermittent claudication » Use a 6th character to identify laterality and/or location: (1) right leg, (2) left leg, (3) bilateral legs, (8) other extremity, (9) unspecified extremity	I70.21-
Atherosclerosis of native arteries of extremities with rest pain » Use a 6th character to identify laterality and/or location: (1) right leg, (2) left leg, (3) bilateral legs, (8) other extremity, (9) unspecified extremity	I70.22-
Atherosclerosis of native arteries of right leg with ulceration » Use a 6th character to identify location of the right leg: (1) thigh, (2) calf, (3) ankle, (4) heel and midfoot, (5) other part of foot, (8) other part of lower right leg, (9) right leg with ulceration of unspecified site	I70.23-*
Atherosclerosis of native arteries of left leg with ulceration » Use a 6th character to identify location of the left leg: (1) thigh, (2) calf, (3) ankle, (4) heel and midfoot, (5) other part of foot, (8) other part of lower left leg, (9) left leg with ulceration of unspecified site	I70.24-*
Atherosclerosis of native arteries of other extremities with ulceration » Use additional code to identify the severity of the ulcer (L98.49-)	I70.25
Atherosclerosis of native arteries of extremities with gangrene » Use additional code to identify the severity of any ulcer (L97.-, L98.49-), if applicable » Use a 6th character to identify laterality and/or location: (1) right leg, (2) left leg, (3) bilateral legs, (8) other extremity, (9) unspecified extremity	I70.26-*
Other atherosclerosis of native arteries of extremities » Use a 6th character to identify laterality and/or location: (1) right leg, (2) left leg, (3) bilateral legs, (8) other extremity, (9) unspecified extremity	I70.29-
*Use additional code (L97.-) to report the severity of the ulcer. These codes are used with I70.23-, I70.24-, and I70.26-, if applicable.	

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