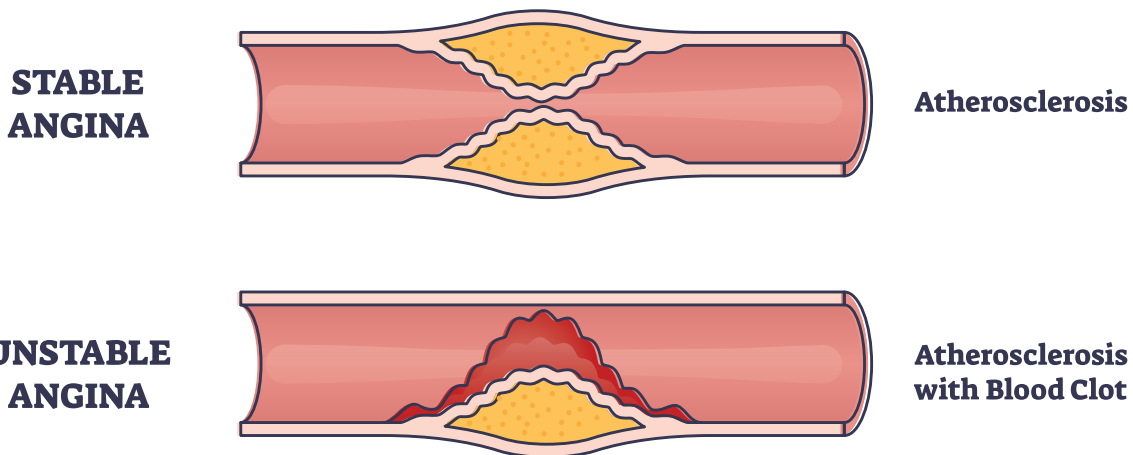# Documentation and Coding:
Unstable Angina

At Healthfirst, we are committed to helping providers accurately document and code their patients' health records. This tip sheet is intended to assist providers and coding staff with the documentation and ICD-10-CM selection on services submitted to Healthfirst—specifically for common types of **Unstable Angina**. It provides information from industry sources about proper coding practice. However, this document does not represent or guarantee that Healthfirst will cover and/or pay for the services outlined. Coverage decisions are based on the terms of the applicable evidence of coverage and the provider's participation agreement. This includes the determination of any amounts that Healthfirst or the member owes the provider.

Unstable angina is an unpredictable condition in which the heart doesn't get enough blood flow and oxygen. It may occur without warning, even at rest or sleeping.

Documentation Recommendations

Status of Condition	▪ Improved ▪ Worsening
Specify Vessel	▪ Native ▪ Autologous vein ▪ Bypass graft
Symptoms	▪ Occurs at rest ▪ Becomes more frequent, severe, or prolonged than the usual pattern ▪ Change from usual pattern ▪ No response to rest
Link Associated Conditions	By using verbiage: ▪ Due to ▪ Associated with ▪ Secondary to i.e., Atherosclerosis, history of MI, heart disease, etc.

Include Treatment Plan	Final diagnostic statement
	▪ Diagnostic results with findings:
	  • EKG, echocardiography, or stress test confirming diagnosis of unstable angina
	▪ Treatment options for unstable angina, including:
	  • Coronary angiography, coronary angioplasty, stent, or coronary artery bypass graft procedure, referrals
	  • Medications, i.e., Nitroglycerin, Heparin

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STABLE ANGINA — **Atherosclerosis**

UNSTABLE ANGINA — **Atherosclerosis with Blood Clot**

I20.0 Unstable Angina Terms include: Crescendo angina, De novo effort angina, Preinfarction Syndrome

Do Not code I20.0 with acute MI during same encounter

I23.7 Postinfarction Angina

I23.7 If documented as complication within 28 days following an AMI

Coding Unstable Angina

- American Heart Association guidelines recommend **initial treatment of unstable angina** in the Emergency Department/Emergency Room (ED/ER).

- When **unstable angina is listed separately from coronary artery bypass graft** (CABG) and both conditions are supported in the documentation, a combination code from category **I25.7x***—Atherosclerosis of coronary artery bypass graft(s) and coronary artery of transplanted heart with unstable angina pectoris—should be coded.

- When **unstable angina is listed separately from coronary artery disease** (CAD) and both conditions are supported in the documentation, a combination code—**I25.110**, Atherosclerotic heart disease of native coronary artery with unstable angina pectoris—should be coded.

- Unstable angina is considered an acute condition with life-threatening consequences and **would seldom be reported in the office setting**.

*Requires additional digit to complete the diagnosis code.

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ICD-10-CM Codes and Descriptions

ICD-10-CM	DESCRIPTION
I25.110	Atherosclerotic heart disease of native coronary artery with **unstable** angina pectoris
I25.700	Atherosclerosis of coronary artery bypass graft(s), unspecified, with **unstable** angina pectoris
I25.710	Atherosclerosis of autologous vein coronary artery bypass graft(s) with **unstable** angina pectoris
I25.720	Atherosclerosis of autologous artery coronary artery bypass graft(s) with **unstable** angina pectoris
I25.730	Atherosclerosis of nonautologous biological coronary artery bypass graft(s) with **unstable** angina pectoris
I25.750	Atherosclerosis of native coronary artery of transplanted heart with **unstable** angina
I25.760	Atherosclerosis of bypass graft of coronary artery of transplanted heart with **unstable** angina
I25.790	Atherosclerosis of other coronary artery bypass graft(s) with **unstable** angina pectoris

Coding Example

Case	A 67-year-old male with a history of CAD was admitted and diagnosed with unstable angina. What is the correct code to submit?
ICD-10-CM	**I25.110** – Atherosclerotic heart disease of native coronary artery with unstable angina pectoris
Rationale	As stated in the Coding Clinic, a diagnostic test does not need to be performed during the admission for a diagnosis of CAD to be established. If the physician cites CAD as the underlying cause of the unstable angina, the CAD is listed as the principal diagnosis. If there is documentation of previous testing to confirm the presence of CAD, then this is the link and the CAD should be listed first.

Note: unstable angina without atherosclerosis heart disease **(I20.0)**.

Documentation and Coding:
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Questions?

Contact us at **#Risk_Adjustments_and_clinical_Documentation@healthfirst.org**.

For additional documentation and coding guidance, please visit the coding section at **HFproviders.org**.

References

- **ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting, FY 2024**
- **American Heart Association**
- **Coding Clinic Advisor**