Documentation and Coding:
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV/AIDS)

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Health Insurance for New Yorkers

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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 HIV/AIDS. 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 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.

Z21	B20	B97.35
Asymptomatic human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] infection status	Human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] disease	Human immunodeficiency virus, type 2 [HIV 2] as the cause of diseases classified elsewhere

Z11.4	R75
Encounter for screening for human immunodeficiency virus [HIV]	Inconclusive laboratory evidence of human immunodeficiency virus [HIV]

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Clinical Documentation Should Include:				
Updated Status of Condition	**Type of HIV**	**Any Risk Factors**	**Condition**	**Treatment Plan**
Stable Improved Worsening	Symptomatic Asymptomatic	Unprotected sex Sharing syringes Exposure to blood and/or bodily fluids with HIV	Pneumonia, recurrent Tuberculosis Kaposi's sarcoma Herpes simplex: chronic ulcers Candidiasis of esophagus, bronchi, trachea, or lungs	Antiretroviral (ARV) treatment: drugs that suppress the HIV infection (e.g., Biktarvy, Tivicay, Genvoya) Therapy for opportunistic infections and malignancies

Coding Documentation Tips

- Apply Asymptomatic HIV infection status (Z21) when a patient without any documentation of symptoms is listed as being "HIV positive," or "HIV test positive," or using similar terminology.

- Do not use Z21 if the term "AIDS" is used or if the patient is treated for any HIV-related illness. In those instances, use B20.

- If a patient is admitted for an HIV-related condition, the principal diagnosis should be B20, followed by additional diagnosis codes for all reported HIV-related conditions.

  – An exception to this guideline is if the reason for admission is hemolytic-uremic syndrome associated with HIV disease, assign code D59.31, Infection-associated hemolytic-uremic syndrome, followed by code B20, Human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] disease.

- Patients previously diagnosed with any HIV illness (B20) should never be assigned Z21, Asymptomatic HIV status.

- Some conditions are considered opportunistic infections and are routinely associated with HIV disease. It is vitally important that these conditions be coded when documented.

- If a patient with a documented history of HIV disease, HIV-related illness, or AIDS is currently managed on antiretroviral medications, assign code B20, Human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] disease. Code Z79.899, Other long-term (current) drug therapy, may be assigned as an additional code to identify the long-term (current) use of antiretroviral medications.

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Coding Examples

Case 1	A 68-year-old male was admitted due to anemia. The patient also has a past medical history of HIV disease and is currently on antiretrovirals (ARVs). The patient had a history of CD4 count less than 200, with a current CD4 of 335. The provider's diagnostic statement listed "HIV disease on ARVs (CD4 335, VL undetectable)" as a secondary diagnosis. What is the appropriate HIV code for this patient?
Rationale	Assign code B20, Human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] disease, for this patient. The provider documented HIV disease, which is specifically classified to code B20. As with any other condition, query the provider for clarification when there is conflicting documentation. Source: *AHA Coding Clinic (Volume 7, Fourth Quarter, 2020)*

Case 2	A 55-year-old with a personal history of end-stage renal disease (ESRD) and a long-standing history of HIV disease presented due to influenza. The provider documented HIV disease on current treatment with a CD4 level over 1,000 and an undetectable viral load. What is the appropriate HIV code for this patient?
Rationale	Assign code B20, Human immunodeficiency virus [HIV] disease, for this patient. Provider documentation indicated HIV disease, which is specifically classified to code B20. As with any other condition, query the provider for clarification when there is conflicting documentation. Source: *AHA Coding Clinic (Volume 7, Fourth Quarter, 2020)*

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**
- **CodingClinicAdvisor.com**
- **CDC.gov**