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Deep Vein Thrombosis

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 **Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT)**. 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 amount that Healthfirst or the member owes the provider.

ICD-10 Codes and Descriptions

Deep Vein Thrombosis Diagnoses for Upper Extremities			
Acute embolism and thrombosis of upper extremity		**Chronic embolism and thrombosis of upper extremity**	
I82.62*	Deep veins of upper extremity	**I82.72***	Deep veins of upper extremity
I82.A1*	Axillary vein	**I82.A2***	Axillary vein
I82.B1*	Subclavian vein	**I82.B2***	Subclavian vein
I82.C1*	Internal jugular vein	**I82.C2***	Internal jugular vein

*Require additional digits to complete the code.
Please note that this is not an inclusive list.

Deep Vein Thrombosis Diagnoses for Lower Extremities:	
Acute embolism and thrombosis of lower extremity	**Chronic embolism and thrombosis of lower extremity**
I82.40*† Unspecified deep vein	**I82.50*†** Unspecified deep vein
I82.41* Femoral vein	**I82.51*** Femoral vein
I82.42* Iliac vein	**I82.52*** Iliac vein
I82.43* Popliteal vein	**I82.53*** Popliteal vein
I82.44* Tibial vein	**I82.54*** Tibial vein
I82.45* Peroneal vein	**I82.55*** Peroneal vein
I82.46* Calf muscular vein	**I82.56*** Calf muscular vein
I82.49* Other specified deep vein of lower extremity	**I82.59*** Other specified deep vein of lower extremity
I82.4Y* Acute embolism and thrombosis of deep vein of thigh NOS Include: Acute embolism and thrombosis of deep vein of upper leg NOS	**I82.5Y*** Chronic embolism and thrombosis of deep veins of thigh NOS Include: Chronic embolism and thrombosis of deep veins of upper leg NOS
I82.4Z* Acute embolism and thrombosis of deep vein of calf NOS Include: Acute embolism and thrombosis of deep vein of lower leg NOS	**I82.5Z*** Chronic embolism and thrombosis of deep veins of calf NOS Include: Chronic embolism and thrombosis of deep veins of lower leg NOS

*Require additional digits to complete the code.
†Use only in the event when no other code describes the condition
Please note that this is not an inclusive list.

Vascular Diseases – Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT)
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Severity

Always document DVT to the highest specificity as acute, chronic, or historical.

Acute	**Chronic**	**Historical**
A new and often symptomatic thrombosis is found, and the patient is starting anticoagulation therapy.	Old or established, which requires ongoing anticoagulation therapy.	Patients no longer have thrombosis but are taking anticoagulation therapy prophylactically.

According to the American Heart Association, a thrombus is referred to as acute when it is within two weeks and chronic when it is more than six months.

Acute within two weeks	→	**Chronic** more than six months

Vein Laterality and Location

Always document the vein, the laterality, and the exact location of the diagnosis (i.e., lower extremity versus upper extremity).

What should documentation and coding for DVT include?

- ✓ Description of DVT severity as acute, chronic, or historical.
- ✓ Specification of laterality (left or right).
- ✓ Specification of the vein (i.e., femoral, iliac, or tibial).
- ✓ Specification of location (upper or lower extremity).
- ✓ Medication (anticoagulants) and length of treatment; clearly link the therapy to the diagnosis and purpose of anticoagulant therapy.
- ✓ Educational information, patient's next appointment orders, or diagnostic tool used.

Common coding practices for DVT that providers should avoid:

- **Do not** document DVT as resolved if the condition is current.
- **Do not** document a suspected or unconfirmed diagnosis as if it were confirmed.
- **Do not** describe current chronic DVT as "history of" or "past medical history." The phrases "history of" and "past medical history" mean the condition is historical and no longer exists.
- **Do not** use terms that imply uncertainty, such as "probable," "apparently," "likely," "consistent with," etc. to describe a current, confirmed peripheral vascular disease condition.

Coding Examples

Here are some examples on how to code diagnoses properly:

What you documented in your notes for the diagnosis	What you coded for the diagnosis	What your code means	What code to use to represent the diagnosis accurately
Recurrent right DVT. On Xarelto prophylactically.	**I82.91** – Chronic embolism and thrombosis of unspecified vein.	The code does not match the documentation. Recurrent does not mean chronic. Since the patient is taking Xarelto prophylactically, this means the patient has a history of this diagnosis. This is historical in severity.	**Z86.718** – Personal history of other venous thrombosis and embolism.
DVT on chronic anticoagulation therapy.	**I82.891** – Chronic embolism and thrombosis of other unspecified veins.	The code does not match the documentation. Chronic anticoagulation or chronic use of medication does not mean DVT is chronic. Acuity should have been documented for clarity.	**I82.409** - Acute embolism and thrombosis of unspecified deep veins of unspecified lower extremity

What you documented in your notes for the diagnosis	What you coded for the diagnosis	What your code means	What code to use to represent the diagnosis accurately
Acute DVT of right lower leg. Starting Coumadin treatment.	**I82.890** – Acute embolism and thrombosis of other unspecified vein.	The code does not match the documentation. Documentation specifies laterality and patient is starting on Coumadin treatment.	**I82.4Z1**– Acute embolism and thrombosis of unspecified deep veins of right distal lower extremity

References

- **https://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2025-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf**
- **AHA Coding Clinic Advisor Homepage | AHA Coding Clinic | AHA Coding Clinic**
- **https://www.aapc.com**

Questions?

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

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

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