



How to help your coding staff report Myocardial Infarction diagnoses accurately

At Healthfirst, we frequently see chronic or “history of” conditions reported on claims as acute conditions.

One of the more often misreported conditions is Myocardial Infarction (MI). With the introduction of ICD-10-CM, the timeframe for reporting a myocardial infarction as “acute” was reduced to 4 weeks from 8 weeks, therefore, in this instance, “acute” refers to the duration.*

To accurately code an MI in ICD-10, your coder will need to know:

- STEMI or NSTEMI
- the location of the infarct (anterior, inferior, or other)
- initial or subsequent episode

A **type 1 MI** described as acute or with a duration of 4 weeks or less with STEMI is classified in categories I21.0-I21.3. The fourth digit indicates the wall involved:

- **I21.0** ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of anterior wall
- **I21.1** ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of inferior wall
- **I21.2** ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of other sites
- **I21.3** ST elevation (STEMI) myocardial infarction of unspecified site

I21.4 Non-ST elevation (NSTEMI) myocardial infarction is used for type 1 non ST elevation myocardial infarction and transmural MIs.

I21.9 Acute myocardial infarction, unspecified should not be assigned unless no information regarding the site and type is documented. If only the type 1 STEMI or transmural MI without the site is documented, assign code I21.3.

*For encounters occurring while the myocardial infarction is equal to, or less than, 4 weeks old, including transfers to another acute setting or a post-acute setting, and the myocardial infarction meets the diagnosis for “other diagnoses” (see Section III, Reporting Additional Diagnoses). Codes from category I21 may continue to be reported. For encounters after the four week time frame and the patient is still receiving care for the myocardial infarction, the appropriate aftercare code should be assigned, rather than a code from category I24. For old or healed myocardial infarctions not requiring further care, Code I25.2, Old myocardial infarction, may be assigned.

The ICD-10-CM provides codes for different types of MI. Type 1 myocardial infarctions are assigned to the above codes I21.0-I21.4.

Type 2 myocardial infarction (myocardial infarction due to demand ischemia of secondary to ischemic imbalance) is assigned to code **I21.A1** Myocardial infarction type 2 with the underlying cause **coded first**.

Acute myocardial infarctions type 3, 4a, 4b, 4c, and 5 are assigned to code I21.A9 – other myocardial infarction type.

**The most important distinction for MI in the office setting is this:
For old or healed myocardial infarctions not requiring further care, code I25.2,
old myocardial infarction, may be assigned.**

A large number of inaccurate MI claims received are due to “history of MI” or “old MI” reported as active.

- Ensure that your documentation cannot be interpreted incorrectly
- Communicate with your coding and billing staff on a regular basis
- Update your billing sheets/superbills to include the most current diagnoses/ ICD-10-CM codes