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Medicare Advantage

Documentation and coding tips: Arrhythmia and sick sinus syndrome

If an EKG performed in the office demonstrates an arrhythmia, document to the greatest degree of certainty based on your clinical judgment and code to that level of specificity. If the type of arrhythmia is known, avoid nonspecific terms such as dysrhythmia or arrhythmia.[1]

ICD-10-CM code	Description
D68.69	Other thrombophillia (hypercoagulable state NEC, secondary hypercoagulable state NOS) • Code also, if applicable, associated condition
I47.0	Re-entry ventricular arrhythmia
I47.1-	Supraventricular tachycardia • *Add 5th character: (0) ● Unspecified, (1) ● Inappropriate sinus tachycardia (IST), (9) ● Other supraventricular tachycardia*
I47.20	Ventricular tachycardia, unspecified
I47.21	Torsades de pointes • Code also, if applicable, long QT syndrome (I45.81) • Use additional for adverse effect, if applicable, to identify drug (T36–T50 with 5th or 6th character 5)
I47.29	Other ventricular tachycardia
I47.9	Paroxysmal tachycardia, unspecified
I48.0	Paroxysmal atrial fibrillation
I48.11	Longstanding persistent atrial fibrillation
I48.19	Other persistent atrial fibrillation
I48.20	Chronic atrial fibrillation, unspecified
I48.21	Permanent atrial fibrillation
I48.3	Typical atrial flutter
I48.4	Atypical atrial flutter
I48.91	Unspecified atrial fibrillation
I48.92	Unspecified atrial flutter
I49.01	Ventricular fibrillation
I49.02	Ventricular flutter

ICD-10-CM code	Description
I49.1	Atrial premature depolarization
I49.2	Junctional premature depolarization
I49.5	Sick sinus syndrome
Z79.01	Long-term (current) use of anticoagulants
Z79.02	Long-term (current) use of antithrombotics/antiplatelets
Z79.82	Long-term (current) use of aspirin
Z86.79	Personal history of other diseases of circulatory system
Z95.0	Presence of cardiac pacemaker*
Z95.810	Presence of automatic (implantable) cardiac defibrillator

* A code is assigned for the sick sinus syndrome (SSS) when it is documented as being controlled by a pacemaker.[2]

Documentation and coding example

Sick sinus syndrome stable with dual chamber permanent pacemaker.[2]

* **I49.5** Sick sinus syndrome
* Z95.0 Presence of cardiac pacemaker

Consider reviewing Optum tools related to coexisting conditions, such as hypertension, heart failure and stroke, if applicable.

Per the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2024: "A dash (-) at the end of an Alphabetic Index entry indicates that additional characters are required. Even if a dash is not included at the Alphabetic Index entry, it is necessary to refer to the Tabular List to verify that no 7th character is required." The bolding of the ICD-10-CM codes represents categories, subcategories or codes that map to the CMS-HCC risk adjustment model for payment year 2024.

Codes marked with a ● directly after them represent new additions to the FY 2024 ICD-10-CM code classification.

The following references were used in the creation of this document at time of publication:

- Optum360. *ICD-10-CM: Professional for Physicians 2024*. Salt Lake City, UT: Optum360; 2023.

1. ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting (I.B.18).
2. AHA Coding Clinic, Vol. 33, 2019; Q1.

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This tool is to be used for easy reference; however, the current ICD-10-CM code classification and the Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting are the authoritative references for accurate and complete coding. The information presented herein is for general informational purposes only. Neither Optum nor its affiliates warrant or represent that the information contained herein is complete, accurate or free from defects. Specific documentation is reflective of the "thought process" of the provider when treating patients. All conditions affecting the care, treatment or management of the patient should be documented with their status and treatment plan and coded to the highest level of specificity. Enhanced precision and accuracy in the codes selected is the ultimate goal. Lastly, on March 31, 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that 2023 dates of service for the 2024 payment year model are based on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Announcement. Announcement of Calendar Year (CY) 2024 Medicare Advantage (MA) Capitation Rates and Part C and Part D Payment Policies (cms.gov).

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