

Commercial	Exchange	Medicare
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Diabetes

DOCUMENTATION AND CODING

More than 40 million Americans have diabetes, and more than 1 in 4 adults with diabetes do not know they have it. Diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States and the primary cause of kidney failure, lower-limb amputations, and adult blindness.¹

Include in medical record

When documenting diabetes to the highest level of specificity, include:

- Type of diabetes (type 1 or type 2).
- Degree of control, such as poorly controlled, hyperglycemia, or controlled.
- Document whether the patient has any episodes of hypoglycemia.
- Complications related to diabetes and assign the appropriate combination code for specific type of diabetes and associated complication.
- Insulin use or oral hypoglycemic drug use.
- Treatment by diet, exercise, medications, foot care, or other therapies.

Coding information

Coding diabetes:

ICD-10-CM code ²	Description
E08.-	Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition
E09.-	Diabetes mellitus drug or chemical induced
E10.-	Type I diabetes mellitus
E11.-	Type II diabetes mellitus
E13.-	Other specified form of diabetes mellitus
Z79.4	Long term use of insulin.
Z79.84	Long term (current) use of oral hypoglycemic drugs.
Z79.899	Other long term (current) drug therapy.

Whenever appropriate, link the diagnosis of diabetes mellitus with all its complications to capture the most accurate severity of the patient's illness in the medical record.

Potential complications include:

Complication	
Hyperglycemia (poorly controlled diabetes)	Autonomic Neuropathy (orthostasis, or gastroparesis)
Nephropathy (chronic renal disease with proteinuria)	Peripheral Vascular Disease (with or without gangrene)
Chronic Kidney Disease (document stage based on eGFR)	Other Circulatory Complications
Retinopathy (proliferative or non-proliferative)	Arthropathy (Charcot joint)
Macular Edema (with retinopathy)	Skin Ulcer
Diabetes-Related Cataracts	Periodontal Disease
Peripheral Neuropathy (polyneuropathy or mononeuropathy)	Diabetes-Related Dermatitis

¹Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Diabetes by numbers. 2026. [Diabetes Basics](#) | [Diabetes](#) | [CDC](#)

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