

Provider Documentation: Diabetes

Documentation Tips & Best Practices

Did you know that documenting the causal relationship between diabetes and diabetic manifestations is essential to complete and accurate coding?

Establishing the causal relationship between conditions is important when the provider's impression is that diabetes has caused one or more complications. Words that are helpful to describe this relationship include due to, because of, secondary to, related to, or diabetic.

Documentation components necessary to capture the severity of illness in your patients with diabetes:

- Type I or Type II
- Secondary to another condition
- With or without complications
- With ketoacidosis
- With hyperosmolarity
- With coma
- With renal manifestations
- With ophthalmic manifestations
- With neurological manifestations
- With peripheral circulatory disorders
- With skin complications
- With other specified manifestations
- Specify current medications such as insulin, oral antidiabetic drugs, or oral hypoglycemic drugs

Utilize MEAT (Monitor, Evaluate, Assess, Treat) to specifically address patient conditions:

Monitor	Evaluate	Assess	Treat
Signs Symptoms Disease progression Disease regression	Test results Medication effectiveness Response to treatment Physical exam findings	Test ordered Counseling Record review Discussion	Medication Therapies Referral Other modalities
MEAT Examples: Diabetes			
Type 1 diabetes – Patient's A1C 6.8, recommend continuing medications and following health diet and exercise.	Type 1 DM with polyneuropathy – Decreased sensation over lower extremities below the knees.	Type 2 diabetes with hyperglycemia – Patient was counseled concerning the relationship between diabetes control and macrovascular disease.	Type 2 DM with end-stage renal disease – As a result of her diabetes, patient has chronic kidney disease and is currently on dialysis for ESRD.