

FOCUS ON: Vascular disease¹

The vascular system is composed of the heart, blood vessels, lymphatics and their parts collectively. It contains a vast network of blood vessels throughout the human body; any problem along this network can cause pain, disability and death. Heart disease (including coronary heart disease, hypertension and stroke) remains the number one cause of death in the United States.¹ There are around 121.5 million American adults living with some form of cardiovascular diseases or the late effect of a stroke, costing more than \$351.2 billion in health cost and lost productivity. Cardiovascular disease, listed as the underlying cause of death, accounts for nearly 840,678 deaths in the US. That's about 1 of every 3 deaths in the US.¹

Peripheral arterial disease (PAD)

PAD in the legs or lower extremities is the narrowing or blockage of the vessels that carry blood from the heart to the legs. It is primarily caused by the buildup of fatty plaque in the arteries, which is called atherosclerosis. PAD can occur in any blood vessel, but it is more common in the legs than the arms. Approximately 8-12 million people in the United States have PAD, including 12-20% of individuals older than age 60. General population awareness of PAD is estimated at 25%, based on prior studies.²

The American Heart Association gauges the cardiovascular health of the nation by tracking seven key health factors and behaviors that increase risks for heart disease and stroke, called "Life's Simple 7". These factors track progress toward a 2020 Impact Goal: to improve the cardiovascular health of all Americans by 20% and to reduce deaths from cardiovascular diseases and stroke. "Life's Simple 7" are:

1. Manage blood pressure
2. Control cholesterol
3. Reduce blood sugar
4. Get active
5. Eat better
6. Lose weight
7. Stop smoking

Per the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2019: "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 2020.

This guidance 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, and coded to the highest level of specificity. Enhanced precision and accuracy in the codes selected is the ultimate goal. Lastly, on April 1, 2019, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that 2019 dates of service for the 2020 payment year model are based on 100% of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Announcement April 1, 2019. Website: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Health-Plans/MedicareAdvtgSpecRateStats/Downloads/Announcement2020.pdf>

Optum360 ICD-10-CM: Professional for Physicians 2019. Salt Lake City, UT: 2018.

1. Benjamin EJ, Muntner P, Alonso A, Bittencourt MS, Callaway CW, Carson AP, Chamberlain AM, Chang AR, Cheng S, Das SR, Delling FN, Djousse L, Elkind MSV, Ferguson JF, Fornage M, Jordan LC, Khan SS, Kissela BM, Knutson KL, Kwan TW, Lackland DT, Lewis TT, Lichtman JH, Longenecker CT, Loop MS, Lutsey PL, Martin SS, Matsushita K, Moran AE, Mussolino ME, O'Flaherty M, Pandey A, Perak AM, Rosamond WD, Roth GA, Sampson UKA, Satou GM, Schroeder EB, Shah SH, Spartano NL, Stokes A, Tirschwell DL, Tsao CW, Turakhia MP, VanWagner LB, Wilkins JT, Wong SS, Virani SS; on behalf of the American Heart Association Council on Epidemiology and Prevention Statistics Committee and Stroke Statistics Subcommittee. Heart disease and stroke statistics - 2019 update: a report from the American Heart Association [published online ahead of print January 31, 2019]. *Circulation*. doi: 10.1161/CIR.0000000000000659.
2. Facts About Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD). U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES. https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/educational/pad/docs/pad_extfctsh_general_508.pdf. Published 2006. Accessed July 29, 2019.

Documentation and coding tips

Atherosclerotic disease is a progressive disease. Therefore, avoid documenting "history of peripheral vascular disease" and instead consider "known peripheral arterial disease".

- **I73.9** Peripheral vascular disease Includes: peripheral arterial disease, peripheral angiopathy and intermittent claudication

When PAD or atherosclerosis is documented as a manifestation of diabetes, use one of the following combination codes:

- **E11.51** Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic peripheral angiopathy without gangrene
- **E11.52** Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic peripheral angiopathy with gangrene

Codes in category I70 include: Atherosclerosis, arteriolosclerosis, arterial degeneration, arteriosclerotic vascular disease, and vascular degeneration.

For category I70, use additional code to identify: Exposure to tobacco smoke (Z77.22), history of tobacco dependence (Z87.891), occupational exposure to tobacco smoke (Z57.31), tobacco dependence (F17.-), tobacco use (Z72.0)

- **I70.0** Atherosclerosis of the aorta
- **I70.20-** Unspecified atherosclerosis of native arteries of extremities
- **I70.21-** Atherosclerosis of native arteries of extremities with intermittent claudication
- **I70.22-** Atherosclerosis of native arteries of extremities with rest pain
- **I70.23-** Atherosclerosis of native arteries of right leg with ulceration
- **I70.24-** Atherosclerosis of native arteries of left leg with ulceration
- **I70.25** Atherosclerosis of native arteries of other extremities with ulceration
- **I70.26-** Atherosclerosis of native arteries of extremities with gangrene
- **I70.29-** Other atherosclerosis of native arteries of extremities

Note: For **I70.20-** - **I70.22** use 6th character: 1=right leg, 2=left leg, 3=bilateral legs, 8=other extremity, 9=unsp. extremity

Note: For **I70.23-**, **I70.24-**, **I70.26** and **I70.29** use a 6th character to identify location of the left leg: 1=thigh, 2=calf, 3=ankle, 4=heel and midfoot, 5=other part of foot, 8=other part of lower leg, 9=unsp. site

Note: For **I70.23-** - **I70.26** use additional code to identify the severity of any ulcer (**L97.-**, **L98.49-**), if applicable