Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD)

Overview
Peripheral vascular disease (I73.9) may be recommended when:
- An ankle-brachial index (ABI) is ≤0.90.
  or
- Moderate or severe stenosis is noted on imaging or angiography.
  or
- Imaging or angiography defines the stenosis as mild (or does not define the severity) and the patient has other atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, such as carotid artery atherosclerosis, history of atherosclerotic TIA/stroke, coronary artery disease (including severe coronary artery calcifications), or claudication symptoms are present.
  - In these situations, peripheral vascular disease can be thought of as a marker of predisposition for diffuse atherosclerotic disease and its complications.

Pearl: Radiology may use synonyms for atherosclerosis, such as plaque or calcification. Additional synonyms for PVD can include peripheral artery disease (PAD) and claudication in peripheral vascular disease.

Pearl: When possible, try to assign specific ICD-10 codes based on laterality and presence of symptoms.

Documentation Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment/Plan: Peripheral vascular disease – bilateral leg pain with exertion, abnormal ABI. Encouraged smoking cessation. Start aspirin. Refer to vascular surgeon.</th>
<th>Both symptoms and testing are documented. Active management demonstrated by, modification of risk factors, medication management, and consultation.</th>
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**Active Management (“MEAT”):**

**Monitor**
- Symptoms
- Disease progression/regression
- Ordering tests

**Evaluate**
- Test results
- Medication effectiveness
- Response to treatment
- Exam finding

**Assess/Address**
- Review records
- Counseling
- Documenting status

**Treat**
- Prescribe/continue medication/stopping
- Surgical/other interventions
- Referral to a specialist

**Common Pitfalls:**
- Nonspecific diagnosis
- Documentation and reported ICD-10 codes do not match
- Not enough information to indicate active assessment/management
- Not linking data/medications to the relevant condition in the assessment/plan.
- Not addressing both conditions when a single ICD-10 code represents a condition and its complication/manifestation
- Inappropriately coding acute conditions as chronic

Resources: [www.visualdx.com/visualdx/diagnosis/peripheral+arterial+disease?diagnosisId=50179&moduleid=101](www.visualdx.com/visualdx/diagnosis/peripheral+arterial+disease?diagnosisId=50179&moduleid=101); Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD) of Lower Extremities (dynamed.com); Up to Date, Clinical features and diagnosis of lower extremity peripheral artery disease; Merck Manual, Peripheral Arterial Disease

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