

Acute Conditions at Ambulatory Visits: Myocardial Infarction

An acute myocardial infarction code (I21.-):

- **Should be used at the time of the acute event and for related care within 28 days of the event.**
 - Pearl: including the date of acute infarction in a note helps to clarify the 28-day window.
 - Pearl: unstable angina (I20.0):
 - considered an acute coronary syndrome.
 - should only be coded when symptoms are present in a given encounter.

Once 28 days have passed since the initial acute myocardial infarction:

- **chronic ischemic heart disease (I25.-) should be used:**
 - Example:
 - coronary artery disease (I25.1-)
 - old myocardial infarction (I25.2) or history of myocardial infarction (I25.2)