

Acute Conditions at Ambulatory Visits: Deep Vein Thrombosis

Diagnosis Overview:

There is lack of consensus in clinical and coding guidelines on when to classify deep venous thromboses (DVT) as acute or chronic

Coders must rely on the clinician's judgement and documentation for proper diagnosis code assignment

Diagnosis Types/Classes:

Acute DVT (I82.6 or I82.4)

- Should be coded when it is felt that the blood clot or fibrosis of clot is present
- Is often diagnosed within the first 3-6 months

Chronic DVT (I82.7 or I82.5)

- Should be coded when it is felt that the blood clot or fibrosis is present
- Is often diagnosed after the first 3-6 months

History of DVT (Z86.718)

- Should be coded when it is felt that the clot or fibrosis is no longer present

PEARL:

The use of and duration of anticoagulation does not help distinguish between acute, chronic or history of DVT

- A patient may have contraindication or decline anticoagulation
- A patient may be on lifelong anticoagulation due to history of DVT to prevent recurrence