

Acute Conditions at Ambulatory Visits: Pulmonary Embolism

Diagnosis Overview:

- There is lack of consensus in clinical and coding guidelines on when to classify Pulmonary Embolism as acute or chronic.
- Coders must rely on the clinician's judgement and documentation for proper diagnosis code assignment.

Diagnoses/Classes:

Acute PE (I26.99)

- 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 PE (I27.82)

- 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 PE (Z86.711)

- 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 PE

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