The diabetes mellitus codes are combination codes that include the type of diabetes mellitus, the body system affected, and the complications affecting that body system. As many codes within a particular category as are necessary to describe all of the complications of the disease may be used. They should be sequenced based on the reason for a particular encounter. Assign as many codes from categories E08 – E13 as needed to identify all of the associated conditions that the patient has.

The age of a patient is not the sole determining factor, though most type 1 diabetics develop the condition before reaching puberty. For this reason type 1 diabetes mellitus is also referred to as juvenile diabetes.

If the type of diabetes mellitus is not documented in the medical record the default is E11.-. Type 2 diabetes mellitus.

If the documentation in a medical record does not indicate the type of diabetes but does indicate that the patient uses insulin, code E11. Type 2 diabetes mellitus, should be assigned. Additional code(s) should be assigned from category Z79 to identify the long-term (current) use of insulin, oral hypoglycemic drugs, or injectable non-insulin antidiabetic, as follows: If the patient is treated with both oral hypoglycemic drugs and insulin, both code Z79.4, Long term (current) use of insulin, and code Z79.84, Long term (current) use of oral hypoglycemic drugs, should be assigned.

If the patient is treated with both insulin and an injectable non-insulin antidiabetic drug, assign codes Z79.4, Long-term (current) use of insulin, and Z79.85, Long-term (current) use of injectable non-insulin antidiabetic drugs. If the patient is treated with both oral hypoglycemic drugs and an injectable non-insulin antidiabetic drug, assign codes Z79.84, Long-term (current) use of oral hypoglycemic drugs, and Z79.85, Long-term (current) use of injectable non-insulin antidiabetic drugs. Code Z79.4 should not be assigned if insulin is given temporarily to bring a type 2 patient’s blood sugar under control during an encounter.

Codes under categories E08, Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition, E09, Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus, and E13. Other specified diabetes mellitus, identify complications/manifestations associated with secondary diabetes mellitus. Secondary diabetes is always caused by another condition or event (e.g., cystic fibrosis, malignant neoplasm of pancreas, postpancreatectomy, adverse effect of drug, or poisoning).

Reference the alphabetical index to review conditions that the classification assumes are related to diabetes. All specified manifestations/complications listed under the word ‘with’ in the index are presumed related unless the physician or NPP specified a different cause in documentation, or states they’re unrelated. Code titles including ‘with’ also indicate an assumed relationship.

When diabetes is treated by a pancreatic transplant or bariatric surgery, and the physician indicates the diabetes is “cured” or “resolved,” continue to code any manifestations of diabetes as diabetic. If there are no manifestations of diabetes, do not code diabetes. Assign code Z86.39, Personal history of other endocrine, nutritional and metabolic disease.

Codes E08-E13 are combination codes that generally do not require a second code to describe the manifestation. Only the combination code should be assigned when it clearly identifies the diagnostic conditions involved. When the combination code lacks necessary specificity, or a convention indicates to use an additional code, the additional code should be added.
Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with hyperosmolality with coma

CODING TIPS
Diabetic ketoacidosis is a serious complication of diabetes that occurs when the body produces high levels of blood acids called ketones. This condition is likely resolved before admission to home care, but could be a current diagnosis.

Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with ketoacidosis without coma

Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with ketoacidosis with coma

Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with kidney complications

Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with diabetic nephropathy
Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with intercapillary glomerulosclerosis
Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with intracapillary glomerulonephrosis
Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with Kimmelstiel-Wilson disease

Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with diabetic chronic kidney disease
Use additional code to identify stage of chronic kidney disease (N18.1-N18.6)

CODING TIPS
When diabetes, CKD and hypertension are documented, sequence the appropriate category of diabetes with CKD (E08.22) and the appropriate hypertension code (I12 or I13) prior to N18. The hypertension or the diabetes may be sequenced first depending on the focus of care. These conditions are all considered related unless the physician or NPP indicates they are not related. For example, if the provider documents diabetic CKD, this indicates that hypertension is not related to the CKD.

When diabetic nephropathy and CKD are documented, code diabetic CKD, not nephropathy, because CKD is more specific.

Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with other diabetic kidney complication
Renal tubular degeneration in diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition

Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with ophthalmic complications

CODING TIPS
When coding diabetes with ophthalmic manifestations, review the clinical record and plan of care to ensure that the functional impact of visual impairments is reported. The home health record should clearly report how visual losses impact the function and activities of the patient, including how these conditions impact medication administration, safety, the ability to perform treatments (such as wound care) and other key areas related to the patient’s daily living.

When a patient has macular edema, the patient also has retinopathy. Retinopathy includes three stages: background retinopathy, proliferative retinopathy, and macular edema.

Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with unspecified diabetic retinopathy

Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with unspecified diabetic retinopathy with macular edema

Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with unspecified diabetic retinopathy without macular edema

Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with mild nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy
Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with mild nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema

Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy

CODING TIPS
Use additional code to identify stage of chronic kidney disease (N18.1-N18.6)

One of the following 7th characters is to be assigned to codes in subcategory E08.32 to designate laterality of the disease:
1. right eye
2. left eye
3. bilateral
9. unspecified eye

Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with mild nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema

Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema

Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy without macular edema