

Guide to Coding Diabetic Ulcers Due to Specified Diabetic Manifestations

Use this quick guide to choose the correct codes for diabetic ulcers caused by specified diabetic manifestations.

Scenario	Correct Coded
Atherosclerotic ulcer and diabetes (Note, if wound care is the focus of care, Z48.00 is coded primary)	E11.51, I70.-, L97.-
Neuropathic ulcer and diabetes/diabetic neuropathic ulcer	E11.62-, L97.-, E11.4-
Diabetic angiopathy, neuropathic foot ulcer (Diabetic angiopathy is focus of care)	E11.4-, E11.51, E11.621, L97.-
Neuropathic foot ulcer, diabetic angiopathy (foot ulcer is focus of care)	E11.621, L97.-, E11.4-, E11.51
Diabetic arterial ulcer	E11.62-, L97.- E11.51

Guide to Coding Diabetes & Venous Stasis

Venous stasis is a type of angiopathy and should be coded as diabetic peripheral angiopathy with E11.51 and I87.2, according to Coding Clinic guidance. Remember, when the focus of care is wound care, it is appropriate to first assign Z48.00, Encounter for change or removal of nonsurgical wound dressing. However, if the diabetic ulcer or the venous stasis ulcer is coded first, the Z48.00 code does not need to be primary.

Scenario	Correct Codes
Venous stasis ulcer in diabetic (wound care is focus of home health)	Z48.00, E11.51, I87.2, L97.-
Diabetic ulcer and venous stasis	E11.62-, L97.-, E11.51, I87.2

Note: Each of the above scenarios assumes a diagnosis of Type 2 diabetes. The category of diabetes code will change if a different type of diabetes is documented, but the fourth and fifth characters, additional codes and sequencing will remain the same.

Interaction Between Diabetes and Gangrenous Pressure Ulcers

- A gangrenous pressure ulcer associated with diabetic neuropathy and PVD is NOT a diabetic ulcer and should NOT be coded as a diabetic manifestation, according to the Coding Clinic.
- Diabetes code categories were not intended to describe pressure ulcers, according to Q3 2018 Coding Clinic guidance.

Sources: Coding Clinic guidance received in letters, Q3 2018 Coding Clinic guidance