



ENDOCRINOLOGY CODING SCENARIOS

1. The patient a type 1 diabetic with diabetic chronic kidney disease, stage 3, is being seen for regulation of insulin dosage. The patient has an abscessed right molar, which was determined, in part, to be responsible for evaluation of the patients' blood sugar. What diagnosis code(s) are assigned?

Answer:

E10.22- Diabetes, diabetic (mellitus) (sugar) type 1, with, chronic kidney disease
N18.3- Disease, diseased, kidney (functional) (pelvis), chronic, stage 3 (moderate)
K04.7- Abscess, tooth, teeth (root)

Rationale:

The Tabular instructs the coder to use an additional code to identify the stage of the chronic kidney disease, N18.3. In this case, the hyperglycemia would not be coded since it was not documented by the physician as out of control in this limited documentation. A physician query might be warranted.

2. A 32-year-old female with secondary diabetes mellitus due to acute idiopathic pancreatitis. She has diabetic hyperglycemia and takes insulin. What are the diagnosis code(s)

Answer:

K85.0- Pancreatitis (annular) (apoplectic)(calcareous) (edematous) (hemorrhagic) (malignant) (recurrent) (subacute)(suppurative), acute, idiopathic
E08.65- Diabetes, diabetic (mellitus) (sugar), due to underlying condition, with, hyperglycemia
Z79.4- Long-term (current) (prophylactic) drug therapy (use of), insulin

Rationale:

The notes in the Tabular show the sequencing in this case. Code first the underlying condition, and use additional code to identify any insulin use (Z79.4). Coding Guideline I.C.4.a.6.b. also gives direction for this case. For acute pancreatitis, assign code E85.0 for idiopathic pancreatitis, or that whose cause cannot be determined. Assign a code from category E08 and a code for long-term use of insulin.

3. This type 1 diabetic patient has a severe chronic diabetic left foot ulcer with diabetic peripheral angiopathy. He also has diabetic stage 2 chronic kidney disease. He is being seen if debridement is required for this ulcer with breakdown of skin. What diagnosis codes are assigned?

Answer:

E10.621- Diabetes, diabetic (mellitus) (sugar), type 1, with foot ulcer
L97.521- Ulcer, foot, see Ulcer, lower limb, lower limb, foot, left, with skin breakdown only
E10.51- Diabetes, diabetic (mellitus) (sugar), type 1, with peripheral angiopathy
E10.22- Diabetes, diabetic (mellitus) (sugar), type 1, with chronic kidney disease
N18.2- Disease, diseased, kidney (functional) (pelvis), chronic, stage 2 (mild)

Rationale:

The diabetic ulcer is listed first because this appears to be the reason for treatment. The note under code E10.621 states to "Use additional code to identify site of ulcer (L97.4-, L97.5-)". It is correct to list as many diabetic conditions as are present, and the stage 2 chronic kidney disease and the peripheral angiopathy are coded. An additional code, N18.2, is added to identify the stage 2 chronic kidney disease. It is not correct to assign Z79.4 because type 1 diabetics must use insulin to sustain life, and this is inherent in the Category E10 codes.

4. The patient is being seen because of increasingly symptomatology, including nervousness, irritability, increased perspiration, shakiness and increased appetite with unexplained weight loss, increased heart rate, palpitations, and sleeping difficulties. A thyroid stimulating hormone test revealed elevated levels and a thyroid nuclear medicine scan revealed hyperactivity of the entire thyroid gland. Based on the diagnostic findings the patient was diagnosed with hyperthyroidism with multinodular goiter. The patient was started on oral anti-thyroid medication. Arrangements were also made for patient to see a cardiologist due to the fact that her palpitations were more pronounced than seen in other patients with hyperthyroidism. What diagnosis are coded?

Answer:

E05.20- Hyperthyroidism (latent) (pre-adult)(recurrent) with, goiter (diffuse), nodular (multinodular)
R00.2- Palpitations (heart)

Rationale:

Although palpitations are integral to hyperthyroidism, the palpitations are coded as an additional (other) diagnosis in this case due to the fact that they were more pronounced, requiring additional clinical evaluation to be carried out. The UHDDS defines "other diagnoses" as those conditions that affect patient care in terms of requiring clinical evaluation, therapeutic

treatment, diagnostic procedures, extended length of hospital stay, or increased nursing care and/or monitoring.