

Uncontrolled diabetes documentation and coding challenges

Uncontrolled diabetes must be further specified as “with hyperglycemia” or “with hypoglycemia.” There are different ICD 10 codes assigned to each of these diagnoses. When uncontrolled diabetes is not stated as due to hyperglycemia or hypoglycemia, coding guidelines instruct the coder to code Diabetes Mellitus, by type (1, 1.5 or 2) without complication. This has an impact on which diabetic category is supported in the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services Hierarchical Coding Category (HCC) model hierarchy.

Based on documentation of the patient’s blood sugars, Hgb A1C, etc. it is often clinically apparent what the type of abnormality the patient has. However, coders are not allowed to interpret this information and must code what the provider states. To accurately depict your patient’s diabetes, be sure to state hyperglycemia or hypoglycemia whenever you document and code a patient has uncontrolled diabetes.

You can find additional information about the documentation and coding of diabetes mellitus on the [Risk-Adjustment Diabetes webpage](#) of our Provider Manual.