



Western Australian Coding Rule

0915/08 Metabolic acidosis in diabetes

WA Coding Rule 0514/06 *Metabolic acidosis in diabetes* is superseded by ACCD Coding Rule ***Metabolic acidosis in a diabetes mellitus patient*** (Ref No: Q2930) effective 1 October 2015; (log in to view on the [ACCD CLIP portal](#)).

DECISION

WA Coding Rule 0514/06 *Metabolic acidosis in diabetes* is retired.

[Effective 01 Oct 2015, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 9th Ed.]



Western Australian Coding Rule

0514/06 Metabolic acidosis in diabetes

Q.

What codes should be assigned for a type 2 diabetic patient (on insulin) who has metabolic acidosis? They also have stage 4 CKD, hypertension and hyperkalaemia. There is no index entry for diabetes with metabolic acidosis, only with lactic and/or ketoacidosis. We have sought advice from an RMO on whether metabolic acidosis is the same as ketoacidosis which they advised is not the case.

A.

There are two types of acidosis: metabolic and respiratory. Respiratory acidosis is due to increased carbon dioxide levels in the blood. Metabolic acidosis may be due to a number of different causes such as diabetes, kidney failure, renal tubular disorders etc. Diabetic acidosis (a type of metabolic acidosis) is classified as either ketoacidosis or lactic acidosis in ICD-10-AM.

The documentation in this case is “metabolic acidosis” and the patient also has type 2 diabetes. Following Rule 3 of ACS 0401 *Diabetes mellitus and intermediate hyperglycaemia*, the coder should look up the lead term of ‘Diabetes, with’ in the Index to ascertain whether metabolic acidosis can be coded as a diabetic ‘complication’. The following options are available:

- - acidosis – see also Diabetes/with/ketoacidosis
- - - lactic (without coma) E1-.13
- - - - with coma E1-.14
- - - - and ketoacidosis (without coma) E1-.15
- - - - - with coma E1-.16

As none of the indexed terms under ‘acidosis’ have been documented, the coder should follow the instruction to see also ‘Diabetes/with/ketoacidosis’. The following index entries are available:

- - ketoacidosis (without coma) E1-.11
- - - with coma E1-.12
- - - and lactic acidosis (without coma) E1-.15
- - - - with coma (E1-.16)

Following Indexing Conventions, the coder should look for the term ‘metabolic’ which is not indexed here either. Therefore, the coder must return to the original lead term and index entry of ‘Diabetes, with, acidosis’. There is no default code for diabetes with acidosis at this index entry, which means that diabetes with metabolic acidosis can not be coded as a diabetic ‘complication’.

The coder must then look up ‘Acidosis, metabolic NEC’ in the index to assign E87.2 *Acidosis*.

There is an Excludes note in the Tabular at E87.2 which says “Excludes: diabetic acidosis E1-.1-“. However, as the only types of acidosis contained in this code range are ketoacidosis and lactic acidosis which have not been documented, the coder should not follow this Excludes note.



DECISION

Metabolic acidosis in a Type 2 diabetic patient cannot be coded as a diabetic ‘complication’. It should be coded to E87.2 *Acidosis* by looking up ‘Acidosis, metabolic NEC’ in the Index. Diabetes code(s) should be assigned depending on any indexed diabetic complications documented (e.g. CKD).

[Effective 28 May 2014, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 8th Ed.]

RETIRED