

Internal Medicine Coding Alert

438 Series Documents the Late Effects of Stroke

The 438.0-438.9 series (Late effects of cerebro-vascular disease) is used to document late effects from the cerebrovascular conditions described in ICD-9 codes 430-437.

Coders should use:

1. 438.0 (Late effects of cerebrovascular disease; cognitive deficits) for cognitive deficits.
2. 438.1 (speech and language deficits) with a required fifth digit to specify a speech or language impairment.
3. 438.2 (hemiplegia/hemiparesis) with a required fifth digit to indicate paralysis affecting one side of the body.
4. 438.3 (monoplegia of upper limb) with a required fifth digit to indicate the site of paralysis on the upper body, when the late effect is paralysis of one limb or muscle group.
5. 438.4 (monoplegia of lower limb) with a required fifth digit to indicate the site of paralysis on the lower body, when the late effect is paralysis of one limb or muscle group.
6. 438.5 (... other paralytic syndrome) with a required fifth digit to indicate paralysis of another type. You must also use a second ICD-9 code to identify the type of paralytic syndrome.
7. 438.8 (other late effects of cerebrovascular disease) with a required fifth digit to indicate other late effects. 438.89 requires an additional code to identify the specific late effect.
8. 438.9 (unspecified late effects of cerebro-vascular disease) when the late effect is not named.