

Internal Medicine Coding Alert

Reader Question ~ Hypoglycemia Codes Differ Greatly

Question: Our physician saw a hypoglycemic patient, but we aren't sure which hypoglycemia code applies. Do you have any advice on selecting an ICD-9 code for this condition?

Nevada Subscriber

Answer: If the patient has diabetic hypoglycemia, you should report 250.8x (Diabetic hypoglycemia).

If not, you should select one of the following codes, based on the physician's documentation:

- 250.3x -- Diabetes with other coma (diabetic hypoglycemic coma)
- 251.0 -- Hypoglycemic coma
- 251.1 -- Other specified hypoglycemia
- 251.2 -- Hypoglycemia, unspecified.

Answers to You Be the Coder and Reader Questions were reviewed by **Kathy Pride, CPC, CCS-P**, director of consulting and training for QuadraMed in Reston, Va.; and **Bruce Rappoport, MD, CPC**, a board-certified internist who works with physicians on compliance, documentation, coding and quality issues for Rachlin, Cohen & Holtz LLP, a Fort Lauderdale, Fla.-based accounting firm with healthcare expertise.