

Internal Medicine Coding Alert

READER QUESTIONS: Choose Single ICD-9 Code to Represent Aortic/Mitral Valve Condition

Question: The internist ordered an electrocardiogram for a patient diagnosed with stenosis of the aortic and mitral valves. During the ECG, she took 14 leads. What would be the correct coding for this scenario? Specifically, how many ICD-9 codes should I report to reflect the patient's condition?

Arkansas Subscriber

Answer: You'll use one diagnosis code to represent the stenosis in both valves. When patients have stenosis (or another affliction) in the mitral and aortic valves, you should choose a code from the 396 series (Diseases of mitral and aortic valves) to identify both conditions.

Aortic stenosis does have its own code, 424.1 (Aortic valve disorders). However, under the exclusions section for 424.1, it states that the diagnosis does not include "that of unspecified cause but with mention of diseases of mitral valve (396.0-396.9)."

ICD-9 coding: The proper code for your claim is 396.0 (Mitral valve stenosis and aortic valve stenosis).

CPT coding: Choose from one of these ECG codes, depending on the specifics of the encounter:

- 93000--Electrocardiogram, routine ECG with at least 12 leads; with interpretation and report
- 93005---... tracing only, without interpretation and report
- 93010---... interpretation and report only.