

Outpatient Facility Coding Alert

Reader Questions: Depend on the Documentation for Vascular Degeneration

Question: What is the right code for vascular degeneration?

Iowa Subscriber

Answer: The correct code depends on the patient's individual condition and documentation in the medical record. If the physician has diagnoses hypertensive vascular degeneration, then choose the most appropriate diagnosis from the 401.x (Essential hypertension) series. Vascular degeneration technically can be arteriosclerosis, which you should report with a code from the 440.x (Atherosclerosis) series.