

## ICD-10 ESSENTIALS for EXTREMITES

The following elements are essential for the proper ICD-10-CM coding of conditions found in the **Extremities**:

### ALL EXTREMITIES

- Location
- Laterality

In addition to location and laterality, the following conditions also require additional information.

### ABCESS and CELLULITIS

- Type of Condition

### OSTEOARTHRITIS

- **Type** (primary, secondary, post-traumatic)
- Unspecified is default

### PERIPHERAL VASCULAR DISEASE

- Native artery vs. bypass graft
- Native artery categorized by manifestation
- Bypass graft categorized by type of graft

### DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS

- Acute vs. Chronic
- Specified Vein or Site Involved

### COMPLICATIONS OF VASCULAR DEVICES, IMPLANTS, GRAFTS and DIALYSIS GRAFT MAINTENANCE

- Underlying Cause of Complication (disease process, mechanical issue, etc.)
- Episode of Care

Common Extremity Related Diagnoses	ICD-10 Specificity Guidance
<b>Limb Pain</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location</li> <li>• Laterality</li> </ul>
<b>Pain in Joint</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location</li> <li>• Laterality</li> </ul>
<b>Swelling of Limb</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location</li> <li>• Laterality</li> </ul>

## Location

For conditions relevant to the extremities, location can represent a specific bone, joint, muscle, artery, vein or body area. For some conditions where more than one “area” is usually involved, such as osteoarthritis, there is a “multiple sites” code available. When the specific location isn’t documented, an unspecified option is available.

## Laterality

All extremity diseases and signs or symptoms are now classified as **right or left**. The option does exist for *unspecified limb*; however, physicians are highly encouraged to always document the laterality as using unspecified for laterality could cause reimbursement issues.

## Pain

Pain is classified in ICD-10 by **joint** and **non-joint** with specific location and laterality coding. In ICD-9, when a patient presented with non-joint limb pain, only one code choice was available. ICD-10 offers 31 specific code options based on location and laterality specificity. Although available as an option, pain should not be classified as an unspecified anatomical location and unspecified laterality. Many times the location and laterality can be inferred by the specific location of the diagnostic examination.

### Unspecified Example:

Indication: **leg pain**  
Coded as: *pain in leg, unspecified*

### Specified Example:

Indication: **right leg pain**  
Coded as: *pain in right leg*

## Abscess and Cellulitis

In ICD-9, abscess and cellulitis were reported using the same codes. In ICD-10, separate codes have been created and are located in the same category as furuncle and carbuncle conditions:

- Cutaneous Abscess
- Furuncle
- Carbuncle
- Cellulitis

**Unspecified Example:**

Indication: **cellulitis**  
Coded as: *cellulitis, unspecified*

**Specified Example:**

Indication: **cellulitis left calf**  
Coded as: *cellulitis of left lower limb*

## Osteoarthritis (Degenerative Joint Disease)

Additional specificity is available for Osteoarthritis to specify type, location, and laterality.

Type	Location	Laterality
Primary	Hip	Right
Secondary	Knee	Left
Post-traumatic	First Carpometacarpal	Bilateral
Other	Shoulder	Unspecified
Unspecified	Elbow	
	Wrist	
	Hand	
	Ankle/Foot	
	Multiple Sites	
	Unspecified	

Osteoarthritis of any site will be coded as *unspecified* unless the type of osteoarthritis is documented.

**Unspecified Example:**

Indication: **DJD, right knee**  
Coded as: *osteoarthritis of knee, unspecified*

**Specified Example:**

Indication: **primary DJD, right knee**  
Coded as: *unilateral primary osteoarthritis, right knee*

## Peripheral Vascular Disease (PVD)

There are dozens of specific code options for peripheral vascular disease within ICD-10, particularly when documented in the presence of atherosclerosis or arteriosclerosis. It will be necessary to include this information for complete code assignment.

Laterality is a necessary component for most conditions that affect the extremities, but for PVD, there are more options available than with most categories:

- Right Leg
- Left Leg
- Bilateral Legs
- Other Extremity
- Unspecified Extremity

Atherosclerosis in the extremities is classified by native artery and bypass graft:

Native Arteries	Bypass Grafts
Intermittent Claudication	Autologous Vein
Rest Pain	Nonautologous Biological
Ulcer (further defined by specific location)	Nonbiological
Gangrene	Other
	Unspecified

### Unspecified Example:

Indication: **PVD**

Coded as: *peripheral vascular disease, unspecified*

### Specified Example:

Indication: **bilateral leg arteriosclerosis with claudication**

Coded as: *atherosclerosis of native arteries of extremities with intermittent claudication, bilateral legs*

## Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT)

ICD-10, DVT is classified by the:

- **Specific Vein** affected
- Acute or Chronic **Condition**
- **Laterality** including right, left, bilateral and unspecified

Location – Vein	Location – Site
Femoral Vein	Calf
Iliac Vein	Lower Leg
Popliteal Vein	Thigh
Tibial Vein	Upper Leg
Other Specified Deep Vein	
Unspecified Deep Vein of Proximal Leg	
Unspecified Deep Vein of Lateral Leg	
Unspecified Deep Vein	

### Unspecified Example:

Indication: **DVT**

Coded as: *acute embolism and thrombosis, unspecified deep veins, unspecified lower extremity*

### Specified Example:

Indication: **right popliteal DVT**

Coded as: *acute embolism and thrombosis, of right popliteal vein*

## Complications of Vascular Devices, Implants, Grafts and Dialysis Graft Maintenance

This set of codes is categorized by the **underlying cause** (disease process or mechanical complication) of the device itself:

- Embolism
- Fibrosis
- Hemorrhage
- Pain
- Stenosis
- Thrombosis
- Breakdown of Device
- Displacement

- Leakage
- Mechanical Obstruction or Perforation of Device

This code set also requires a 7<sup>th</sup> character to identify the **episode of care**

- Initial Encounter
- Subsequent Encounter
- Sequela

Note: If the patient is receiving active treatment for the device complication, the episode of care will be considered *initial*.

**Unspecified Example:**

Indication: **AV graft declot**

Coded as: *unspecified complication of cardiac, vascular prosthetic device, implant and graft*

**Specified Example:**

Indication: **AV graft stenosis**

Coded as: *stenosis of vascular prosthetic devices, implants and grafts*

**Sources:**

*ICD-10-CM Draft Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting 2014*; Cooperating Parties for the ICD-10-CM: the American Hospital Association (AHA), the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), 2013.

*Detailed Instructions for Appropriate ICD-10-CM Coding*, Optum 2013.

*ICD-10-CM Clinical Documentation Improvement Desk Reference*, Optum 2013.

*Best Practices for ICD-10-CM Documentation and Compliance*, AMA 2012.