



MASSACHUSETTS

DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS... DECIPHERED

Documentation tip

DOCUMENTING ACUITY LEVEL

Always document deep vein thrombosis (DVT) to the highest level of specificity, starting with the **acuity level**.

Acuity level	Status of thrombosis	Medication
Acute (new and often symptomatic)	Located	Patient starts anticoagulation therapy.
Chronic (old or previously diagnosed thrombus)	Still present	Patient requires ongoing anticoagulation therapy
History of (no longer current)	Gone	Patient is taking anticoagulation therapy prophylactically

USING CODES TO DOCUMENT DVT DETAILS

ICD-10 coding allows for different options regarding details of the DVT:

- Severity
- Laterality
- Location

DIAGNOSTIC TESTS

- Computed tomography venography
- Duplex ultrasound
- Magnetic resonance venography
- Plethysmography

IMPORTANT CODING REMINDERS

- **Recurrent does not equal chronic.** The DVT may have recurred more than once with the patient taking anticoagulation therapy prophylactically.
- **Patients who take anticoagulants** do not necessarily have an active DVT. Please document if the DVT is **chronic**, not just that the patient uses medication.
- The **most common DVT coding error** is whether it is acute, chronic, or history of. Once the thrombus (clot) has resolved and the patient remains on anticoagulants, it becomes a **history**.



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ANTITHROMBOTIC AGENTS

Agents	Drugs
Drugs that interfere with platelets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggrastat • Aspirin • Effient
Drugs that interfere with clotting factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coumadin • Eliquis • Heparin • Lovenox
Medications in an inpatient setting to dissolve clots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plavix • Reopro • Ticlid • Pradaxa • Savaysa • Warfarin • Xarelto • Tissue plasminogen activators (TPA)

OTHER MEDICAL THERAPIES

- Bandages or devices
- Compression stockings
- Diuretics
- Exercise
- Weight reduction

PATIENTS AT RISK FOR DVT

- Active cancer
- Bedridden (three or more days)
- Calf swelling
- Collateral superficial veins present
- Entire leg swollen
- History of previous DVT
- Leg in cast or immobilized
- Localized tenderness
- Major surgery
- Pitting edema in symptomatic leg only

DVT SYMPTOMS

- Edema
- Pain
- Red and warm to the touch
- Swollen veins that are hard or sore
- Throbbing or cramping pain (one leg, usually calf or thigh)
- Unilateral swelling