

Atrial fibrillation

Documentation and coding: Individual & Family Plans

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For coding education questions, email CignaHealthcareHCPEducation@CignaHealthcare.com.

It is important to accurately document and code diagnoses when submitting claims for your patients with Cigna Healthcare®-administered coverage. This helps ensure your diagnosis and coding practices comply with all applicable legal requirements,¹ while enabling us to provide our customers with the benefits and resources they need. For additional information and resources, visit the Cigna Healthcare Individual & Family Plans page at CignaforHCP.com/IFP.

The information that follows is designed to provide guidance for the documentation and coding of claims for your patients with atrial fibrillation. It is not meant to replace your clinical judgment when caring for your patients.

Definition²

Atrial fibrillation is an abnormal heartbeat caused by extremely fast or irregular heartbeats from the upper chamber of the heart.

General classification²

- **Paroxysmal** – Atrial fibrillation is intermittent and stops within seven days.
- **Persistent** – Atrial fibrillation lasts longer than seven days and may require cardioversion (electrical shock) to return to normal heart rhythm.
- **Long-standing persistent** – Atrial fibrillation lasts longer than one year.

Documentation tips

- Document any current irregular heartbeat or rapid heart rate in physical exam findings.
- Confirm the clinician has signed and dated the face-to-face or telehealth encounter. Include the printed version of the clinician's full name and credentials (e.g., MD, DO, NP, PA).
- Document a treatment plan and follow up. A treatment plan can be in the form of a medication, referral, diet, monitoring and/or ordering a diagnostic exam.
- Follow up with a specialist for coordination of care.

Atrial fibrillation and flutter

ICD-10-CM ³	Description	Coding tips
I48.0	Paroxysmal atrial fibrillation	
I48.11	Longstanding persistent atrial fibrillation	
I48.19	Other persistent atrial fibrillation	Chronic persistent atrial fibrillation; persistent atrial fibrillation, NOS
I48.20	Chronic atrial fibrillation, unspecified	Excludes chronic persistent atrial fibrillation (I48.19)
I48.21	Permanent atrial fibrillation	
I48.3	Typical atrial flutter	Type I atrial flutter
I48.4	Atypical atrial flutter	Type II atrial flutter
I48.91	Unspecified atrial fibrillation	
I48.92	Unspecified atrial flutter	

Long-term use of medications

ICD-10-CM	Description
Z79.01	Long-term use of anticoagulants
Z79.02	Long-term use of antithrombotic/antiplatelets

¹ Diagnosis inaccuracies that are not addressed can result in administrative sanctions and potential financial penalties.

² "What is AFib?" John Hopkins Medicine. Retrieved on 9 August 2023 from <https://www.HopkinsMedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/atrial-fibrillation>.

³ International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification.