

# Deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism

Documentation and coding: Individual & Family Plans

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**For coding education questions,** email [CignaHealthcareHCPEducation@CignaHealthcare.com](mailto:CignaHealthcareHCPEducation@CignaHealthcare.com).

It's 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,<sup>1</sup> 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](https://CignaforHCP.com/IFP).

*The information that follows is designed to provide guidance for the documentation and coding of claims for your patients with deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism. It is not meant to replace your judgment when caring for your patients.*

## Definitions

**Deep vein thrombosis (DVT)** is a blood clot that forms in one (or more) of the deep veins, typically in a lower extremity.

**Pulmonary embolism (PE)** is a blood clot that blocks blood flow to an artery in the lung. In most cases, the clot develops in a deep vein of a lower extremity and travels to the lung.

## Documentation and coding guidance

- Anticoagulation is frequently used prophylactically. Therefore, it is not sufficient support for a DVT/PE to only be coded as current.
  - Explicitly state whether the DVT/PE is current or active.
  - Document the date when the DVT/PE initially occurred.
  - Link a treatment plan.
  - Include related conditions.
- Make statements that are compatible with the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD-10) nomenclature and include complete specificity:

## ○ Status of the DVT/PE

- **Active condition:** Current at the time of visit and the patient is receiving treatment.
- **Personal history:** Patient had a DVT/PE in the past, but it is not present at the time of the visit.

## ○ Acuity

- **Acute DVT (lower extremity):** A newly (within past three months) diagnosed thrombus that requires initiation of anticoagulation.
- **Chronic DVT (lower extremity):** A previously diagnosed thrombus that requires continuation of anticoagulation.
- **Acute PE:** A newly (within past three months) diagnosed embolus that requires initiation of anticoagulation.
- **Chronic PE:** A previously diagnosed embolus that requires continuation of anticoagulation.
- **Recurrent:** History of recurrent DVT/PE (but not present at time of visit) – code as personal history. Current recurrent DVT/PE (current, active, and receiving treatment at time of visit) – code as an acute DVT/PE.

## ○ Laterality: Right, left, or bilateral.

## ○ Site: Femoral, iliac, etc.

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

## Acute and chronic deep vein thrombosis (lower extremity)

ICD-10 code	Description	Additional characters to use		
<b>I82.-</b>	Other venous embolism and thrombosis	(-) Add 4th character – acuity 4 – Acute 5 – Chronic	(-) Add 5th character – deep vein of lower extremity: 0 – Unspecified 1 – Femoral vein 2 – Iliac vein 3 – Popliteal vein 4 – Tibial vein 5 – Peroneal vein 6 – Calf muscular vein 9 – Other specified deep vein of lower extremity Y – Unspecified deep veins of proximal lower extremity Z – Unspecified deep veins of distal lower extremity	(-) Add 6th character – laterality: 1 – Right 2 – Left 3 – Bilateral 9 – Unspecified

## Acute pulmonary embolism

ICD-10 code	Description	Additional characters to use		
<b>I26.-</b>	<b>(Acute)</b> pulmonary embolism	(-) Add 4th character – acute cor pulmonale: 0 – With acute cor pulmonale	(-) Add 5th character – type: 1 – Septic embolism 2 – Saddle 3 – Cement 4 – Fat 9 – Other pulmonary embolism	
		(-) Add 4th character – acute cor pulmonale: 9 – Without acute cor pulmonale	(-) Add 5th character – type: 0 – Septic 2 – Saddle 3 – Single subsegmental 4 – Multiple subsegmental 5 – Cement 6 – Fat 9 – Other pulmonary embolism	

## Chronic pulmonary embolism

ICD-10 code	Description
<b>I27.82</b>	<b>Chronic</b> pulmonary embolism

## Personal history deep vein thrombosis (lower extremity) and pulmonary embolism

ICD-10 code	Description
<b>Z86.711</b>	Personal history of pulmonary embolism
<b>Z86.718</b>	Personal history of other venous thrombosis and embolism

## Long-term use of anticoagulant

ICD-10 code	Description
<b>Z79.01</b>	Long term (current) use of anticoagulants