Coding and Documentation Tips:
Diabetes Uncontrolled

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Uncontrolled Diabetes

There is no default code for "uncontrolled diabetes." Effective October 1, 2016, uncontrolled diabetes is classified by type and whether it is hyperglycemia or hypoglycemia. If the documentation is not clear, query the provider for clarification whether the patient has hyperglycemia or hypoglycemia so that the appropriate code may be reported: uncontrolled diabetes indicates that the patient's blood sugar is not at an acceptable level, because it is either too high or too low. In the ICD-10-CM Index to Diseases, uncontrolled diabetes can be referenced as follows:[1]

- *Diabetes, diabetic (mellitus) (sugar)*
  - *Uncontrolled*
    - *Meaning*
      - *hyperglycemia – see Diabetes, by type, with hyperglycemia*
      - *hypoglycemia – see Diabetes, by type, with hypoglycemia*

To correctly report Uncontrolled Diabetes Mellitus (DM), the diagnosis must be documented. As the AHA coding clinic (above) states, the provider needs to specify if the patient is hyperglycemic or hypoglycemic. "Uncontrolled" is not enough of a descriptor.

Example:
- Uncontrolled type 2 diabetes mellitus with hyperglycemia noted in A/P with "pt with high bgs frequently", "increasing medication due to hyperglycemia".
  - **E11.65 – Uncontrolled type 2 diabetes**
- Since the hyperglycemia was addressed in the note the "uncontrolled" is reportable.

Example:
- Diabetes, uncontrolled noted in A/P with no discussion of hyperglycemia or hypoglycemia in the encounter note.
- **E11.9 – Diabetes type 2, uncomplicated**
  - Although Diabetes was noted as "uncontrolled," there was no discussion of hyperglycemia or hypoglycemia. As a result, Diabetes, uncomplicated is all that can be reported.

Poorly Controlled Diabetes vs. Uncontrolled Diabetes

When documenting diabetes, keep in mind that poorly controlled and uncontrolled do not mean the same thing.

- When documented properly, they both code to E11.65.

When "poorly controlled, "out of control", "inadequately controlled" is documented, this indicates the patient has hyperglycemia. So, in this case, the code book has an entry for the diagnosis, E11.65.

As discussed above, Uncontrolled DM needs further discussion to be able to report.

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[1] AHA Coding Clinic for ICD Q1Y2017
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