BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina
Documentation and Coding
DVT & Pulmonary Embolism

A quick reference guide to assist with accurate, complete documentation and coding that reflects the true nature of a patient's current health status at the highest level of specificity. Per ICD-10 official guidelines for reporting and coding.

The importance of consistent, complete documentation in the medical record cannot be over-emphasized. Without such documentation, accurate coding cannot be achieved.

Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) occurs when a blood clot develops in the deep veins, mostly seen in the lower extremities. A DVT is the most common form of pulmonary embolism.

Pulmonary embolism (PE) occurs when part of the DVT clot breaks off and travels to the lungs. The clot can be in the form of a fat embolus often linked to the breaking of a large bone, amniotic fluid embolus or air bubbles in the upper body.

Documentation Tips:
- Acuity
  - **Acute**, new, and symptomatic thrombosis at the initiation of anticoagulation therapy
  - **Chronic**, old, or established thrombosis managed with ongoing anticoagulation therapy. Clearly state whether recurrent vs chronic
  - **Historical**, no longer has thrombosis/embolism, on prophylactic anticoagulant therapy
- Site/laterality
- Indicate provoked or unprovoked
- Pulmonary embolism: with or without cor pulmonale
- Anticoagulant therapy: clearly document if anticoagulant therapy is for treatment or for prophylaxis

ICD 10 Code	Description	Example(s) of when to use codes in this category
I82.xxx	Embolism and thrombosis, veins specified and unspecified location, upper and lower extremities, laterality, severity and other embolism and thrombosis	Patient seen for **acute** deep vein thrombosis of **left lower extremity**. Warfarin started as treatment. Use I82.402 Patient with **chronic** deep vein thrombosis of **right femoral ve**in, is being managed with Xarelto. Use I82.511 with Z79.01
I26.xxx	Pulmonary Embolism with or without acute cor pulmonale, type, septic emboli	Patient seen for **acute** pulmonary embolism without cor pulmonale. Patient will begin anticoagulation therapy. Use I26.99
I27.82	Pulmonary Embolism (Chronic)	A patient, currently on Eliquis, is seen for management of **chronic** pulmonary embolism. Use both I27.82 with Z79.01
Z86.711	Personal history of Pulmonary Embolism	Patient with history of pulmonary embolism in 2014. Condition has **resolved**, no recurrence.
Z86.718	Personal history of other venous thrombosis or embolism	Patient presents at outpatient clinic to have INR drawn. Patient has deep vein thrombosis with no evidence of recurrence on ultrasound imaging performed 4 weeks ago. Patient remains on prophylactic coumadin therapy. Use both Z86.718 with Z79.01
Z79.01	Long term (current) use of anticoagulants	Use this code when patient is on a long-term anticoagulant. Z79 category of codes should not be used when prescribed for brief periods as in the treatment of an acute injury or illness. temporary use. Documentation should reflect reason for long-term use.

Resource: https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/deep-vein-thrombosis/symptoms-causes/syc-20352557