

DOCUMENTATION REFERENCE CARD

ATHEROSCLEROSIS

Documentation Considerations

- Identify affected vein/artery (aorta, renal artery, etc.)
- Note whether the vein/artery is native or a graft (and type of graft if known)
- State complications if present (ex. Intermittent claudication, ulceration or rest pain.)
- Note the laterality (left, right or bilateral) and specify if one or both sides are affected by complications.

Diagnosis Considerations

- Verify if the vein/artery is native or a graft is in place (note the type of graft if known) and the laterality of the extremity
- When ulceration is present, use the appropriate diagnosis code that includes the atherosclerosis **WITH** the location of the ulceration
- If ulcer is present, assign a separate diagnosis code for the severity of the ulcer

Additional Considerations

- Note specialist follow-up with diagnoses
- Review all radiology reports to identify atherosclerotic conditions:
 - Atherosclerosis of aorta
 - Aortic ectasia
 - Aortic tortuosity
 - Renal Artery
 - Extremities
- If atherosclerotic heart disease with angina, see also “Angina” reference card.



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