

Documentation and coding tips: Arrhythmia and sick sinus syndrome

Medicare Advantage

ICD-10-CM	Description	HCC
I47.-	Paroxysmal tachycardia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add a 4th character: 0=reentry ventricular arrhythmia, 1=supraventricular tachycardia, 2= ventricular tachycardia, 9=paroxysmal tachycardia, unspecified 	96
I48.-	Atrial fibrillation and flutter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add a 4th and/or 5th character(s): 0=paroxysmal atrial fibrillation, 11=long-standing persistent atrial fibrillation, 19=other persistent atrial fibrillation, 20=chronic atrial fibrillation, unspecified, 21=permanent atrial fibrillation, 3=typical (type 1) atrial flutter, 4=atypical (type 2) atrial flutter, 91=unspecified atrial fibrillation, 92=unspecified atrial flutter 	96
I49.01	Ventricular fibrillation	84
I49.02	Ventricular flutter	84
I49.9	Cardia arrhythmias, unspecified	Not an HCC
R00.7	Bradycardia, unspecified	Not an HCC

Consider documenting secondary hypercoagulable state (**D68.69**) in patients with atrial fibrillation, on anticoagulants. Document and link the underlying condition, in this case atrial fibrillation, as the cause of the hypercoagulable state.

ICD-10-CM	Description	HCC
I49.5	Sick sinus syndrome (SSS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sinoatrial node dysfunction Autosomal dominant or recessive SSS Brady-tachy syndrome Coronary sinus rhythm disorder Chronotropic incompetence with sinus node dysfunction 	96
Z95.0	Presence of cardiac pacemaker	Not an HCC
Z95.810	Presence of automatic (implantable) cardiac defibrillator	Not an HCC
Z86.79	Personal history of other diseases of the circulatory system (history of sick sinus syndrome)	Not an HCC

- A code is assigned for the sick sinus syndrome (SSS) when it is documented as being controlled by a pacemaker.
- If a pacemaker, automatic cardioverter/defibrillator (AICD), cardiac resynchronization pacemaker (CRT-P), or bi-ventricular defibrillator (CRT-D) is present, document what the underlying rhythm was that necessitated placement of the cardiac device.
- Dysrhythmias treated with an implantable cardioverter defibrillator (AICD) can be documented and coded separately.¹

Documentation and coding examples

Secondary hypercoagulable state due to AFib, will continue to monitor. Her INR is therapeutic on the current dose of warfarin. AFib stable, continue beta blocker

- I48.91** Unspecified atrial fibrillation
- D68.69** Other thrombophilia (secondary hypercoagulable state)
- Z79.01 Long-term (current) use of anticoagulants

Sick sinus syndrome stable with dual chamber permanent pacemaker.

- I49.5** Sick sinus syndrome
- Z95.0 Presence of cardiac pacemaker

Consider reviewing Optum tools related to coexisting conditions such as hypertension, COPD and stroke, if applicable.

Per the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2021: "A dash (-) at the end of an alphabetic index entry indicates that additional characters are required. Even if a dash is not included at the alphabetic index entry, it is necessary to refer to the tabular list to verify that no 7th character is required." The bolding of the ICD-10-CM codes represents categories, subcategories or codes that map to the CMS-HCC risk adjustment model for payment year 2021: [cms.gov/Medicare/Health-Plans/MedicareAdvgtgSpecRateStats/Risk-Adjustors](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Health-Plans/MedicareAdvgtgSpecRateStats/Risk-Adjustors).

Optum360 ICD-10-CM: Professional for Physicians 2020. Salt Lake City: 2021.

1. AHA Coding Clinic, Vol. 33, 2019, Q1