

HIV Diagnosis' Asymptomatic vs. Symptomatic



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Author: Teresa Whitten, RHIT, CCS

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- Asymptomatic and symptomatic refer to stages in the disease process
 - ◇ Asymptomatic human immunodeficiency virus status (Z21) is used when the patient is HIV positive and does not have any documented symptoms of a HIV-related illness
 - ◇ B20 is used for coding HIV disease, AIDS, HIV infection symptomatic
- Documentation needs to specify the stage or document the cause and effect relationship with symptoms or conditions in the record.
- Conflicting documentation needs to be confirmed by a clarification query

Sequencing

- Sequencing for HIV depends on the reason for admission. If the patient is admitted for a HIV-related condition sequence B20 as principal followed by the additional diagnosis for any HIV related conditions.
- Conditions that are always considered HIV-related include Kaposi's Sarcoma, lymphoma, Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP), cryptococcal meningitis, and cytomegaloviral disease
- If a patient with HIV is admitted for a unrelated condition such as a fracture, code the unrelated condition as principal and B20 as a secondary.
- Inconclusive HIV serology and no definitive diagnosis of HIV is assigned code R75
- Z11.4 Encounter for screening for human immunodeficiency virus
- Z71.7 is used if counseling is provided for a patient with a positive test result
- Z20.6 is used when a patient believes they have been exposed or has come in contact with the HIV virus

Sources: AAPC, Journal of AHIMA