

Risk Coding Tips and Tools

Cerebral Vascular Accident

Documenting Cerebral Vascular Accident (CVA)

- Do not use **I63.9-unspecified cerebral infarction**, in the outpatient setting. This code is intended for use only during the initial episode of care (inpatient only)
- If a patient has a history of a CVA with no lasting effects, use **Z86.73** for personal history of transient ischemic attack (TIA) and cerebral infarction without residual deficits
- Refer to codes from category **I69-for sequelae/late effects resulted from CVA** and always code to highest specificity with documented support

Physician Documentation Example

Example 1:

Patient with prior CVA, no residual deficits. No new symptoms.
Assessment: History of CVA stable.

ICD-10 code Z86.73: Personal history of transient ischemic attack and cerebral infarction without residual deficits. 

Example 2:

Patient with CVA one year ago with persistent left-sided weakness. Patient is right-handed.
Assessment: CVA with residual left side hemiplegia, stable and continue to monitor.

ICD-10 code I69.354: Hemiplegia and hemiparesis following cerebral infarction affecting left nondominant side. 

Example 3:

Patient had a stroke three months ago, continues with right-sided weakness. Requesting home health services.

Incorrect ICD-10 code I63.9: Cerebral infarction, unspecified. 

Correct ICD-10 code I69.351: Hemiplegia and hemiparesis following CVA right dominant side. 

Rosenberg, B. (2020). Maximize your stroke Dx coding. AAPC Knowledge Center. <https://www.aapc.com/blog/50518-maximize-your-stroke-dx-coding/>

You can find this resource and others like it in the OHN Risk Coding Corner at
www.OrlandoHealth.com/Network/Resources.

You can also contact us at RiskCoding@OrlandoHealth.com for additional questions or support needs.