



Focus on Eye Diseases

August is Cataract Awareness Month

Facts about Vision Impairments

Loss of vision among the elderly is a major health care problem: approximately one in three elderly persons has some form of vision-reducing eye disease by the age of 65.¹ Vision impairment is associated with a decreased ability to perform activities of daily living, an increased risk of falling and an increased risk for depression. Accordingly, an annual eye examination for Medicare Advantage patients is a CMS-mandated healthcare quality measurement.

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is the leading cause of loss of vision in people over 65 years of age. AMD is characterized by degeneration of the macula, the area of the retina responsible for central vision. Risk factors for AMD include advancing age, family history of AMD, and cardiovascular risk factors such as hypertension and cigarette smoking.

ICD-9-CM Coding:²

- 362.50 Macular degeneration (senile), unspecified
- 362.51 Nonexudative senile macular degeneration (senile macular degeneration: atrophic, dry)
- **362.52** Exudative senile macular degeneration (Kuhnt-Junius degeneration, senile macular degeneration: disciform, wet)

ICD-10-CM Coding:³

- H35.30 Unspecified macular degeneration (age-related macular degeneration)
- H35.31 Nonexudative age-related macular degeneration (atrophic age-related macular degeneration)
- H35.32 Exudative age-related macular degeneration

Glaucoma comprises a group of disorders characterized by glaucomatous optic nerve damage and visual field loss. It is a significant cause of blindness in the United States and is the most common cause of blindness among African-Americans. An estimated 1 million Americans over 65 years of age have experienced loss of vision associated with glaucoma, and approximately 75% of persons who are legally blind because of glaucoma are over the age of 65. The most prevalent form of glaucoma is primary open-angle glaucoma.

ICD-9-CM Coding:²

- 365.9 Unspecified glaucoma

Excludes: blind hypertensive eye [absolute glaucoma] (360.42) and congenital glaucoma (743.20–743.22)

Code type of glaucoma (365.00–365.9) and also glaucoma stage (365.70–365.74)

ICD-10-CM Coding:³

- H40.9 Unspecified glaucoma

Excludes: absolute glaucoma (H44.51–), congenital glaucoma (Q15.0) and traumatic glaucoma due to birth injury (P15.3)

Code type of glaucoma and appropriate 7th character for glaucoma stage

Cataract is a common cause of vision impairment in the elderly and the most common cause of blindness worldwide. In the United States, the potentially blinding effect of cataracts among the elderly is dramatically reduced because cataract surgery is readily available, effective and safe. The prevalence of cataracts increases with age from less than 5% in persons under 65 years of age to approximately 50% in those 75 years of age and older.

ICD-9-CM Coding:²

- 366.10 Senile cataract, unspecified
- **366.41** Diabetic cataract *Code first*
249.5x, 250.5x
Code type of cataract (366.00–366.9)

ICD-10-CM Coding:³

- H25.9 Unspecified age-related cataract
- E11.36 Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic cataract
Code type of cataract (H25.011–H25.9)

Diabetic retinopathy is the leading cause of new blindness among middle-aged Americans. It is also a significant cause of vision morbidity in the elderly population. The prevalence of diabetic retinopathy rises with increasing duration of diabetes. However, significant diabetic retinopathy may be observed in the elderly at the time of diagnosis or during the first few years of diabetes. Diabetic retinopathy is divided into two categories: nonproliferative and proliferative.

ICD-9-CM Coding:²

- **362.01** Background diabetic retinopathy (Diabetic retinal microaneurysms, Diabetic retinopathy NOS) *Code first*
249.5x, 250.5x
- **362.07** Diabetic macular edema *Code first*
249.5x, 250.5x

Note: Code **362.07** must be used with code for diabetic retinopathy (**362.01, 362.02, 362.03–362.06**)

ICD-10-CM Coding:³

- E11.311 Type 2 diabetes mellitus with unspecified diabetic retinopathy with macular edema
- E11.319 Type 2 diabetes mellitus with unspecified diabetic retinopathy without macular edema

The diabetes mellitus codes are combination codes that include the type of diabetes mellitus, the body system affected and the complications affecting that body system. As many codes within a particular category as are necessary to describe all of the complications of the disease may be used. They should be sequenced based on the reason for a particular encounter. Assign as many codes from categories E08–E13 as needed to identify all of the associated conditions that the patient has.⁴

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The State of Vision, Aging and Public Health in America. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; 2011.

² *Optum ICD-9-CM for Physicians Professional 2015. Vols. 1&2.* Salt Lake City: 2014.

³ *Optum ICD-10-CM: The Complete Official Draft Set 2015.* Salt Lake City: 2014.

⁴ The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). "ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting." Department of Health and Human Services. DHHS. 2013. October. Web. 4 August 2014. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/icd10cm_guidelines_2014.pdf>.