

ICD-10-CM Documentation and Coding Best Practices

Immunodeficiency and Autoimmune Disorders

Overview

Most of the time, the immune system protects the body from germs and other threats. However, sometimes it gets off track and has a weaker response to these threats. This low activity is called **immune deficiency** and it makes a person less able to fight off infections. Immune deficiency arises when components of the immune system (**white blood cells, antibodies**) are missing, reduced in number, or abnormal and malfunctioning. This can result from environmental factors such as *infection, longstanding illness, medications, severe burns or malnutrition*. It may also be present at birth due to an inherited genetic disorder.

Signs and Symptoms

- Recurrent respiratory infections (pneumonia, sinusitis, bronchitis)
- Frequent, unusual or unusually severe infections
- Swollen lymph glands or an enlarged spleen

Diagnosis

- Blood tests, including a **complete blood count (CBC)**
- Biopsy of the lymph nodes, lungs, and/or bone marrow
- Skin tests or genetic testing

Treatment

Treatment involves preventing infections, treating infections when they occur and replacing missing parts of the immune system.

- Prevention – General measures and vaccines to prevent infection
- Antibiotics and Antivirals
- Immunoglobulin (antibody) replacement – regular injections of antibodies (weekly, monthly)
- Transplantation – bone marrow, stem cell, thymus
- Monitoring – Patients taking immune-suppressing drugs require careful monitoring to detect and treat any infections that occur.

Immunodeficiency Disorders

- **Neutropenia (D70.-)** is an absolute neutrophil count (ANC) < 1,500 neutrophils/ μ l blood. Chemotherapy is the most common cause, but anything that disrupts neutrophil production (rheumatoid arthritis, Hepatitis A, B, and C, myelodysplastic syndrome, leukemia, vitamin deficiencies, alcohol use disorder) can result in neutropenia.
- **Pancytopenia (D61.81-)** is a deficiency of all three cellular components of the blood:
 - Thrombocytopenia: Platelet count less than 150,000
 - Neutropenia: ANC less than 1,500
 - Anemia: Hematocrit less than 32
- **Graft versus host syndrome.** After bone marrow transplant, the donor's immune system cells may attack the tissues of the person receiving the transplant. Prednisone, a corticosteroid, and other immune-suppressing medicines are used to prevent excessive organ damage caused by the donor's immune cells.

**ICD-10-CM excludes the reporting of neutropenia (D70.-) with category D61 codes. This is an Excludes 1 note.*

***If a patient has pancytopenia, the associated component treated may also be coded, if not excluded. (Coding Clinic, third quarter 2005, pp. 11-12)*

Rheumatoid Arthritis

Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) is a chronic autoimmune disease that progresses over time. It is characterized by pain, swelling and inflammation in the joints and surrounding tissues. It can also affect other body organs.

When documenting and coding RA:

- Document site and laterality
- With Rheumatoid Factor (Seropositive) vs. without Rheumatoid factor (Seronegative)
- Document treatment plan
 - Use of DMARD or other medications
- Joint vs. organ
- Patient refusal or inability to use DMARD, document details

ICD-10 Code	Description	Coding Guidelines
D59.0* , D59.1 , D68.61	Severe Hematological Disorders	*Use additional code for adverse effect, if applicable identify drug (T36-T50 with fifth or sixth character 5)
D89.82 , D89.89*	Disorders of Immunity	*Excludes human immunodeficiency virus disease (B20)
M05.0**‡	Felty's Syndrome	‡ Excludes 1 note Rheumatic fever (I00) Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (M08.0_) Rheumatoid arthritis of the spine (M45._)
M05.1**‡	Rheumatoid lung disease with RA	
M05.2**‡	Rheumatoid vasculitis with RA	
M05.3**‡	Rheumatoid heart disease with RA	
M05.4**‡	Rheumatoid myopathy with rheumatoid RA	
M05.5**‡	Rheumatoid polyneuropathy with RA	
M05.6**‡	Rheumatoid arthritis with involvement of other organs and systems	
M05.7**‡	Rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor without organ or systems involvement	
M05.8**‡	Other rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor	
M05.9**‡	Rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor, unspecified	
M06.0**	Rheumatoid arthritis without rheumatoid factor	
M06.1	Adult-onset Still's disease	
M06.2**	Rheumatoid bursitis	
M06.3**	Rheumatoid nodule	
M06.4	Inflammatory polyarthropathy	
M06.8**	Other specified rheumatoid arthritis	
M06.9	Rheumatoid arthritis, unspecified	

**** Add 5th character to designate site:**

0 – unspecified **1** - shoulder **2** – elbow **3** – wrist **4** – hand **5** – hip **6** – knee **7** – ankle/foot **9** – multiple sites

Add 6th character to designate laterality:

1 – right **2** – left **9** – unspecified