

Molina Healthcare

Coding Education

Peripheral Arterial Disease & ABI



Measurement of the ankle-brachial index (ABI) is reasonable if peripheral arterial disease (PAD), also known as peripheral vascular disease (PVD), is suspected. Although the majority of patients with PAD will not have symptoms, clinical reasons to suspect PAD include claudication, a non-healing ulcer, skin changes including hair loss over the lower legs, and age >70¹.

ABI Interpretation:

≤0.90 – Abnormal and diagnostic for PAD²

Coding Tip:

Atherosclerotic vascular disease is a chronic, progressive disease that should be referred to as current or known PAD/PVD, not history of PAD/PVD³.

Documentation Example:

Initial Diagnosis

- **Assessment:** A 73 year old asymptomatic male with a history of smoking.

ABI results 0.90, currently asymptomatic PAD.

- **ICD-10 Code:** I73.9 PAD unspecified

Plan: Discussed the importance of risk factor control. Will monitor.

Established Diagnosis

- **Assessment:** A 54 year old diabetic female with stable claudication due to PVD.

A1C and BP are currently at goal.

- **ICD-10 Code:** E1151 Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic peripheral angiopathy without gangrene

Plan: Discussed the importance of risk factor control, continue anti-platelet agent. Will monitor.

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- ¹J Vasc Surg. 2015 Mar;61(3 Suppl):2S-41S.
 - ²Ankle Brachial Index Collaboration. Atherosclerosis. 2006 Nov;189(1):61-9.
 - ³AAPC ICD-10-CM: The Complete Code Set, 2016.

Have Questions?

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