

Documentation and coding tips: Arthritis

Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 53.2 million adults in the US have been told by a doctor that they have some form of arthritis. Arthritis is the inflammation or swelling of one or more joints. There are many different types of arthritis with different causes and treatments. In some types, other organs, such as your eyes, heart, or skin, can also be affected.¹

ICD-10-CM code	Description
L40.50	Arthropathic psoriasis, unspecified
L40.51	Distal interphalangeal psoriatic arthropathy
L40.52	Psoriatic arthritis mutilans
L40.53	Psoriatic spondylitis
L40.54	Psoriatic juvenile arthropathy
L40.59	Other psoriatic arthropathy
M00.-	Pyogenic arthritis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use additional code (B95.61-B95.8) to identify bacterial agent • If applicable, use additional characters for type, location and laterality
M02.-	Post infective and reactive arthropathies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code first underlying disease, such as: congenital syphilis (A05.5), infective endocarditis (I33.0), viral hepatitis (B15-B19) • If applicable, use additional characters for type, location and laterality
M05.-	Rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If applicable, use additional characters for type, location and laterality
M06.0–M06.3-; M08.-	Other rheumatoid arthritis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If applicable, use additional characters for type, location and laterality
M06.4	Inflammatory polyarthropathy
M06.9	Rheumatoid arthritis, unspecified

ICD-10-CM code	Description
M12.9	Arthropathy, unspecified
M19.90	Unspecified osteoarthritis, unspecified site
Z51.81	Encounter for therapeutic drug level monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code also any long-term (current) drug therapy (Z79.-)
Z79.1	Long term (current) use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatories
Z79.52	Long term (current) use of systemic steroids
Z79.622	Long term (current) use of Janus kinase inhibitor
Z79.631	Long term (current) use of antimetabolite



Tips:

- Other common types of inflammatory arthritis include Ankylosing spondylitis (M45.-), Amyloidosis (E85.-), Systemic lupus erythematosus (M32.-), etc.²
- Additional conditions to consider are Reiter’s disease (M02.3-), Autoinflammatory syndrome (M04.-), Sjogren syndrome (M35.0-) and Polymyalgia rheumatica (M35.3).

Documentation should be clear, concise and legible. All conditions that coexist at the time of the encounter/ visit, and require or affect patient care, treatment and/or management, should be documented.²

When documenting conditions related to **arthritis**, specify (if applicable):

Type: Rheumatoid (juvenile, seronegative, seropositive [presence of rheumatoid factor]), degenerative, osteo, inflammatory, psoriatic, etc.

Location/joints affected: Wrist, hand, elbow, shoulder, knee, hip, vertebrae, ankle, foot, multiple sites, etc.

Laterality: Right, left, bilateral

Systemic involvement: Carditis, lung involvement, myopathy, polyneuropathy, splenadenomegaly, leukopenia, vasculitis, visceral involvement, etc.

Documentation and coding examples

Seronegative rheumatoid arthritis of the left elbow, symptoms improving with tofacitinib therapy.

- **M06.022** Rheumatoid arthritis without rheumatoid factor, left elbow
- **Z79.622** Long-term (current) use of Janus kinase inhibitor

Consider reviewing Optum tools related to coexisting conditions, such as major depressive disorder, vascular disease and chronic lung diseases, if applicable.

Per the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2024: "A dash (-) at the end of an Alphabetic Index entry indicates that additional characters are required. Even if a dash is not included at the Alphabetic Index entry, it is necessary to refer to the Tabular List to verify that no 7th character is required." The bolding of the ICD-10-CM codes represents categories, subcategories or codes that map to the CMS-HCC risk adjustment model for payment year 2024:

[Announcement of Calendar Year \(CY\) 2024 Medicare Advantage \(MA\) Capitation Rates and Part C and Part D Payment Policies \(cms.gov\).](#)

The following references were used in the creation of this document at time of publication:

- Optum360. *ICD-10-CM: Professional for Physicians 2024*. Salt Lake City, UT: Optum360; 2023.

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [CDC Arthritis Types](#). Published 2019. Accessed January 2, 2024.
2. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). [ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2024](#). Accessed February 23, 2024.



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This tool is to be used for easy reference; however, the current ICD-10-CM code classification and the Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting are the authoritative references for accurate and complete coding. The information presented herein is for general informational purposes only. Neither Optum nor its affiliates warrant

or represent that the information contained herein is complete, accurate or free from defects. Specific documentation is reflective of the "thought process" of the provider when treating patients. All conditions affecting the care, treatment or management of the patient should be documented with their status and treatment plan and coded to the highest level of specificity. Enhanced precision and accuracy in the codes selected is the ultimate goal. Lastly, on March 31, 2023, the Centers for

Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that 2023 dates of service for the 2024 payment year model are based on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Announcement. [Announcement of Calendar Year \(CY\) 2024 Medicare Advantage \(MA\) Capitation Rates and Part C and Part D Payment Policies \(cms.gov\).](#)

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