DOCUMENTATION REFERENCE CARD
ATHEROSCLEROSIS

Documentation Considerations

- Identify affected vein/artery (aorta, renal artery, etc.)
- Note whether the vein/artery is native or a graft (and type of graft if known)
- State complications if present (ex. Intermittent claudication, ulceration or rest pain.)
- Note the laterality (left, right or bilateral) and specify if one or both sides are affected by complications.

Diagnosis Considerations

- Verify if the vein/artery is native or a graft is in place (note the type of graft if known) and the laterality of the extremity
- When ulceration is present, use the appropriate diagnosis code that includes the atherosclerosis **WITH** the location of the ulceration
- If ulcer is present, assign a separate diagnosis code for the severity of the ulcer

Additional Considerations

- Note specialist follow-up with diagnoses
- Review all radiology reports to identify atherosclerotic conditions:
  - Atherosclerosis of aorta
  - Aortic ectasia
  - Aortic tortuosity
  - Renal Artery
  - Extremities
- If atherosclerotic heart disease with angina, see also "Angina" reference card.

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NOTE: This tool is intended to assist with documentation only and not intended to take the place of clinical analysis. Information regarding any law or regulation does not constitute legal or tax advice and is subject to change based upon the issuance of new guidance and/or change in laws or regulations. Reference Official ICD-10-CM coding guidelines and manuals or electronic medical coding software for accurate ICD-10-CM codes and specificity.

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