PRESENTED BY HIGHMARK RISK ADJUSTMENT ACCURACY MANAGEMENT

Amputation Status

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Agenda

1. Overview of the condition
2. Coding & documentation considerations
3. Documentation example
4. Additional resources

Amputation Status

Amputation status signifies the absence of a limb due to trauma, medical illness, or surgery; it specifically refers to the acquired absence of a limb rather than congenital absence. This acquired loss, which can be partial or complete, often results from peripheral arterial disease (PAD), diabetes, severe injuries/burns, and infections. Management typically involves surgical removal, wound care, prosthetic fitting, rehabilitation, and ongoing long-term care to improve mobility and function.

For reporting purposes, ICD-10 codes use the "Acquired Absence of..." category **(Z89.-)** to indicate the status of healed, past surgical amputations. Additional characters specify the anatomical site and laterality.

Acquired absence of right leg below knee

Z89. 5 1 1

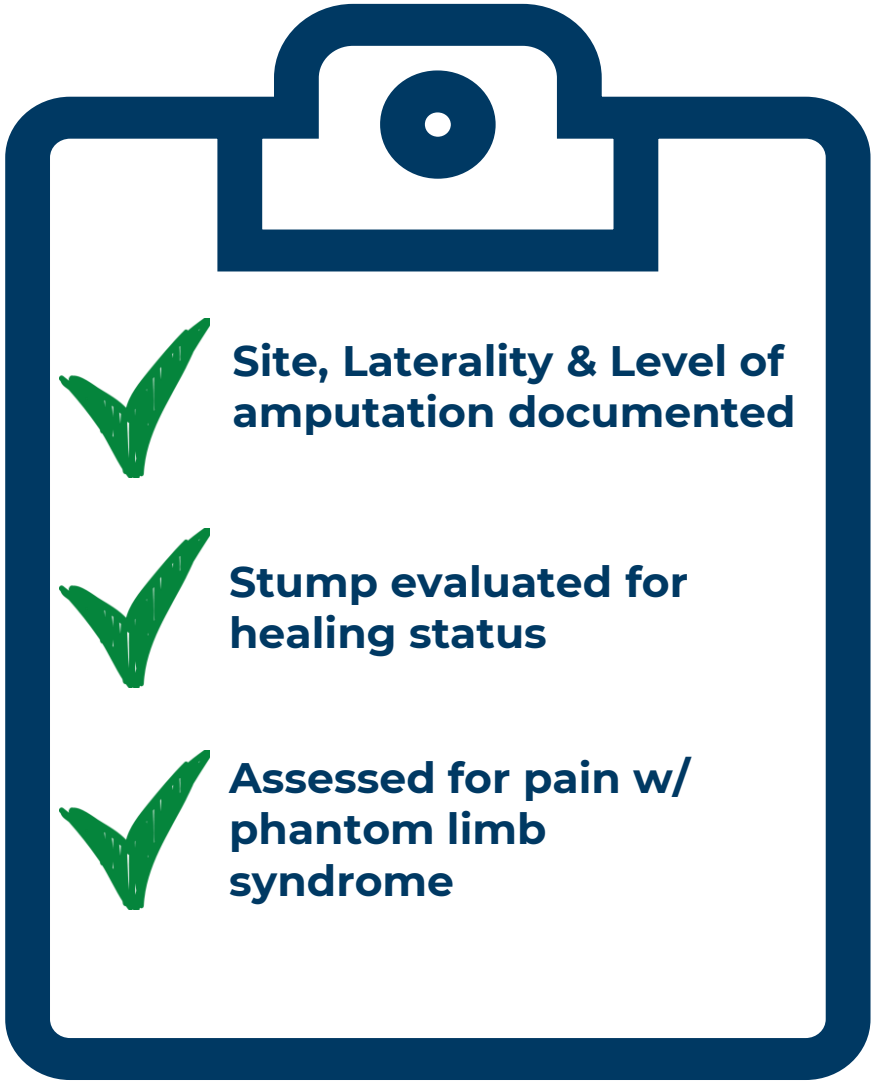
Anatomical Site	
43	Foot
44	Ankle
51	Leg Below knee
61	Leg Above knee

Laterality	
1	Right
2	Left
9	Unspecified

Documentation Considerations

Site, Laterality, & Level	Specify the anatomical site, which side of body, and the level of the amputation.
Type of Amputation	Clearly document if the amputation was traumatic or surgical.
Healing Status	Note the current status of the stump, as fully healed or actively healing.
Complications	Record any phantom limb syndrome (G54.6 or G54.7), Infections (T87.-), or non-healing ulcers (L97. -).
Prosthetic Usage	Note prosthesis use, device condition (wear/failure), and the patient's gait with the device.
Other Considerations	State if the patient is wheelchair bound (no prosthesis). Note any psychological changes in the patient's conditions.

Amputation Status Documentation Example



Chief Compliant:
Patient reports experiencing pain of the **left leg** which was **amputated below the knee** 3 years ago.

Physical Exam:
Stump is well healed. **Non-tender and no signs of redness, swelling, or discharge**. **Phantom sensations with pain on light touch to the distal end of the stump.**

Assessment & Plan:
Acquired absence of left leg below knee – AWV completed. Reviewed routine health maintenance/ screening. Follow up in one year or sooner, if needed.

Phantom limb syndrome with pain – Recommend aspirin and massage of residual limb for pain. If symptoms do not improve after 6 months, will explore other treatment options.

The clinician completed a thorough examination, documenting the site of amputation with level and laterality defined. The physical exam showed a well healed stump, complicated by phantom sensations. The assessment and plan provides specific support for Acquired absence of left leg below knee Z89.512 and Phantom limb syndrome with pain G54.6

Additional Resources

Documentation Best Practice Checklist

- **Annually assess** all chronic conditions and document a plan for each one
- **Link medications** to help establish ongoing treatment especially if the medication is used to treat multiple conditions.
- **Use the term "History of"** before a condition if it no longer exists or has resolved
- **Validate** patient reported findings
- **Code and document all coexisting conditions** that require or affect patient care, treatment or management
- **Avoid using uncertain terms** when a diagnosis has been confirmed for a patient
- **Choose the highest level of specificity** when selecting an ICD-10 code
- **Keep problem list up to date** by removing acute and one-time conditions

Highmark Provider Resource Center

KNOWLEDGE COLLEGE

15-minute on-demand courses on risk adjustment coding and documentation to help clinicians comply with CMS standards and ICD-10-CM guidelines

1. Log into Availity.
2. Navigate to the Provider Resource Center.
3. Locate “Resources and Education” in the menu bar and navigate to “Clinical Quality & Education”.
4. Select “Coding Education/HCC University”.

RISK ADJUSTMENT OVERVIEW

Review the foundations of what risk adjustment is, hierarchical condition categories, common errors, best practices and impacts to patient care

CODING & DOCUMENTATION CARDS

Reference cards to assist with documentation and coding according to CMS documentation standards and ICD-10-CM coding requirements

Have questions about risk adjustment?

Want to share feedback or suggest topics for future presentations?

Email:
RiskAdjustmentCoding@Highmark.com