

Myocarditis is an inflammation of the heart muscle (myocardium) that can affect the heart's ability to pump blood and maintain a normal rhythm. It is often caused by viral infections, autoimmune diseases, or exposure to certain medications or toxins. According to the American Heart Association's 2025 update, myocarditis accounts for approximately 10–20 cases per 100,000 people annually in the U.S., with a higher incidence in young males

Best Documentation Practices:

- Specify the type of myocarditis, if known, and choose the appropriate ICD-10-CM code.
 - Acute, chronic, isolated, viral, idiopathic, etc.
 - Avoid vague terms like "heart condition" or "cardiac issue."
- If known, specify the etiology of cardiomyopathy
 - Remember to use appropriate language to clearly illustrate the causal relationship between myocarditis and the underlying disease process, when applicable
 - *Example: viral myocarditis due to COVID-19*
- Document the patients' symptoms and severity
 - Document chest pain, arrhythmias, and heart failure symptoms
 - Note the onset, duration, and severity
 - If asymptomatic, document how the condition was discovered (e.g., incidental imaging or lab findings)
- Document any associated conditions
 - Remember to use appropriate linking language to clearly illustrate the causal relationship between myocarditis and the underlying disease process, when applicable
 - E.g., cardiomyopathy, pericarditis, heart failure (specify type and acuity, if known)
- Document diagnostic workup
 - Include all relevant test results and document the clinical interpretation and how they support the diagnosis of myocarditis

Codes commonly used for myocarditis:

ICD-10-CM Code	Descriptor
I40.0	Infective myocarditis (e.g. viral)
I40.1	Isolated myocarditis
I40.8	Other acute myocarditis
I40.9	Acute myocarditis, unspecified
I51.4	Myocarditis, unspecified

Please refer to the ICD-10-CM coding manual for an all-inclusive list of codes

For questions or more information, please contact:

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