

The Circulatory System

In an effort to aid Health Information Management Coding Professionals for ICD-10, the following anatomy tip is provided with an educational intent.

Circulatory system includes the veins and vessels of the human body. Circulation is the movement of blood to and from the heart. The blood returns to the heart through veins and the superior and inferior vena cava. The circulatory system is often broken into two parts: The heart and blood vessels and the lymph. When the body has an infection, it can be spread throughout the body via the circulatory system.

Key Documentation Elements are needed to accurately code in ICD-10:

- *Nontraumatic subarachnoid hemorrhage requires identification of laterality (right or left) and the specific artery: Carotid siphon or bifurcation, middle cerebral artery, anterior communicating artery, posterior communicating artery, vertebral artery or basilar artery.*
- *Nontraumatic intracerebral hemorrhage requires identification of the site: Subcortical hemisphere, cortical hemisphere, brain stem, cerebellum, ventricle or multiple.*
- *Cerebral and precerebral infarctions, occlusion and stenosis require identification of cause (thrombosis, embolism, unspecified), laterality (right or left) and specific artery.*
- *Acute myocardial infarction must be identified as initial or subsequent (occurring within the 4-week [28 day]) acute phase of the initial myocardial infarction.*
- *Embolism, thrombosis, phlebitis, and thrombophlebitis of veins require identification of laterality and the specific lower extremity vein.*