



www.BrundageGroup.com

Atrial Fibrillation: 2020 ICD-10 Code Updates

Brought to you by Pinson&Tang, authors of the CDI Pocket Guide

Effective October 1, 2019, there are two new ICD-10 codes for atrial fibrillation specified as “chronic” or “permanent”. Previously non-CCs, these are now CCs.

Type of Afib	ICD-10 code	CC status
Paroxysmal	I48.0	Non-CC
Long-standing persistent	I48.11	CC
Persistent	I48.19	CC
Chronic, unspecified	I48.20	CC
Permanent	I48.21	CC
Unspecified	I48.91	Non-CC

- “Chronic” atrial fibrillation (I48.20) is a new code that is a non-specific term indicating that atrial fibrillation of any type has been present for more than three months.
 - A patient who has had an acute episode of paroxysmal atrial fibrillation that has been converted to sinus rhythm, but requires on-going maintenance medication to prevent recurrences, is a **chronic** problem.
- “Permanent” atrial fibrillation (I48.21) is a new code indicating a patient who takes rate control medication with no plans for conversion to sinus rhythm.

In these situations, unspecified atrial fibrillation is commonly documented. This represents a new query opportunity to further specify the type for CC status.

Find the full definitions, diagnostic criteria, and coding and documentation challenges for common cardiac dysrhythmias in the [2020 CDI Pocket Guide](#) by Dr. Richard Pinson and Cynthia Tang.

Derived from 2020 CDI Pocket Guide (c) 2020 Pinson and Tang, LLC. Used with permission.

All materials contained in this document are protected and the property of Brundage Medical Group, LLC, d/b/a Brundage Group. You may use this material with our permission without altering.