



Report Urinary Tract Infections (UTI) with These ICD-10 Codes



A urinary tract infection (UTI) is an infection involving the kidneys, ureters, bladder, or urethra. The blog lists the ICD-10 codes for reporting UTIs.

Outsource Strategies International

8596 E. 101st Street, Suite H

Tulsa, OK 74133

A urinary tract infection (UTI) is an infection in any part of your urinary system, namely the kidneys, ureters, bladder or urethra. The urinary system is the body's drainage system for removing wastes and extra water. These are the structures that urine passes through before being eliminated from the body. Generally, these infections are caused by bacteria developing in your urinary tract and may cause pelvic pain, increased urge to urinate, or pain while urinating. UTI most commonly occurs in the lower urinary tract — the bladder and the urethra -- and can be painful and annoying. However, if ignored or left untreated, these infections can spread to the kidneys causing serious complications. Urology medical billing and coding is complex, with significant and ever-changing codes and guidelines. **Outsourcing medical billing** tasks to a reliable medical billing company is the perfect alternative for practices looking to submit accurate claims for maximum reimbursement.

UTIs are regarded as the second most common bacterial infections in the United States, which account for around 8.1 million visits to a doctor every year. The vast majority of these infections are caused by the bacterium *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), usually found in the digestive system. On the other hand, *Chlamydia* and *mycoplasma* bacteria can also infect the urethra but not the bladder. Women have a lifetime risk of over 50 percent of developing a urinary tract infection (UTI) than men. Potential risk factors that increase the likelihood of developing UTIs include diabetes, bowel incontinence, urinary tract abnormalities, frequent sexual intercourse, poor personal hygiene, blockages in the urinary tract, problems emptying the bladder completely, having a urinary catheter, and kidney stones.

Symptoms to Notice

Urinary tract infections don't always cause signs and symptoms. The type and intensity of symptoms may depend on the specific causes or type of bacterial infection. It may also depend on age, gender, the presence of a

catheter, and what part of the urinary tract has been infected. Some of the common symptoms include –

- A burning sensation when urinating
- Passing frequent, small amounts of urine
- Urine that appears red, bright pink or cola-colored (a sign of blood in the urine)
- Strong-smelling urine
- Pressure in the lower belly
- Pelvic pain, in women (especially in the center of the pelvis and around the area of the pubic bone)
- Pain in the back or side below the ribs
- Nausea and vomiting
- Muscle ache and abdominal pain
- Fever, tiredness, or shakiness
- An urge to urinate often

Making an Accurate Diagnosis and Treatment Options for UTIs

Initial diagnosis of urinary tract infections is generally made with the physician asking questions about individual symptoms. Physicians may recommend testing of urine samples in order to assess the presence of white blood cells, red blood cells, and bacteria. This lab analysis of the urine will be followed by a urine culture which tracks which bacteria is causing the infection and which medications will be the most effective.

For persons who experience frequent urinary infections,(which may be caused by an abnormality in the urinary tract), physicians may recommend different types of imaging tests such as ultrasound, a computerized tomography (CT) scan or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). In addition, the physician may also use a contrast dye to highlight structures in the urinary tract. In some cases they may perform cystoscopy using a long, thin tube with a lens (cystoscope) to see inside

the urethra and bladder. The cystoscope is inserted in the urethra and passed through to the bladder.

Treatment for urinary tract infections may generally start with antibiotics. The type of antibiotics prescribed by urologists may depend on the duration of infection and the type of bacteria found in the urine. Commonly prescribed antibiotics for UTIs include - Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole (Bactrim, Septra, others), Fosfomycin (Monurol), Nitrofurantoin (Macrochantin, Macrobid), Cephalexin (Keflex) and Ceftriaxone. In most cases, most symptoms may clear up within a few days of consumption of antibiotics. However, patients may need to continue taking antibiotics for a week or more. It is important to take the entire course of antibiotics as prescribed by the physicians. Physicians may also prescribe a pain medication (analgesic) that numbs the bladder and urethra to relieve burning while urinating.

As mentioned above, **urology medical billing** and coding is challenging as it involves several rules related to reporting the condition correctly. Urologists or other specialists who treat urinary infections must use the relevant ICD-10 diagnosis codes to bill for the procedure. The ICD- 10 medical codes used to report UTIs include -

ICD-10 Codes

- **N39 - Other disorders of urinary system**
 - ✓ N39.0 - Urinary tract infection, site not specified
 - ✓ N39.3 - Stress incontinence (female) (male)
- **N39.4 - Other specified urinary incontinence**
 - ✓ N39.41 - Urge incontinence
 - ✓ N39.42 - Incontinence without sensory awareness
 - ✓ N39.43 - Post-void dribbling
 - ✓ N39.44 - Nocturnal enuresis
 - ✓ N39.45 - Continuous leakage
 - ✓ N39.46 - Mixed incontinence

- **N39.49 - Other specified urinary incontinence**
 - ✓ N39.490 - Overflow incontinence
 - ✓ N39.491 - Coital incontinence
 - ✓ N39.492 - Postural (urinary) incontinence
 - ✓ N39.498 - Other specified urinary incontinence
- **N39.8 - Other specified disorders of urinary system**
- **N39.9 - Disorder of urinary system, unspecified**

To prevent urinary tract infections, patients must follow certain important steps. Some of the steps that help reduce the risk of UTIs include – drinking plenty of water, drinking cranberry juice, emptying your bladder soon after intercourse, wiping from front to back after urinating and bowel movement, avoiding fluids such as alcohol and caffeine that irritate the bladder and keeping the genital area clean.

Knowing the correct ICD-10 codes related to documenting urinary tract infections (UTIs) is crucial for providers. Partnering with a reliable and experienced **medical billing company** is important for physicians to ensure accurate and timely claim submissions.