AAVBC
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF VALUE BASED CARE

Peripheral Arterial Disease

Quick Reference Guide

2026

Table of Contents

1 CLINICAL SNAPSHOT

Definition: Peripheral arterial disease (PAD) is atherosclerotic narrowing of the arteries supplying the limbs, most often the lower extremities, producing a clinical spectrum that ranges from asymptomatic disease and intermittent claudication to ischemic rest pain, nonhealing ulceration, and gangrene. Its most severe end — **chronic limb-threatening ischemia** (CLTI) — is defined by **ischemic rest pain, non-healing wounds, or gangrene** present for more than two weeks; among people with known PAD, CLTI incidence is estimated at 11-20% with a historical 1-year mortality of 25-35%.[1] PAD is not a single entity: the **severity tier (claudication -> rest pain -> ulceration -> gangrene)** determines both clinical urgency and the ICD-10 code family that follows.

ICD-10 Codes:

Native-artery atherosclerosis of the extremities is coded in the **I70.2x** series, which requires four axes of specificity — vessel type (native vs. graft), severity (claudication -> rest pain -> ulceration -> gangrene), laterality (right/left/bilateral), and ulcer site when applicable. Code the highest severity present: **I70.26x** (gangrene) outranks **I70.23x-I70.25** (ulceration), which outranks **I70.22x** (rest pain), which outranks **I70.21x** (claudication). Bypass-graft atherosclerosis uses parallel families by graft type (**I70.3x-I70.7x**); using a native-artery code for a graft patient is a frequent error. Ulceration codes require an additional **L97.-** code to specify ulcer site and depth, and chronic total occlusion (**I70.92**) is a commonly omitted companion code.[2]

Epidemiology: PAD affects approximately **12.5 million persons aged 40 years or older** in the United States and approximately 236 million persons worldwide.[3] The disease occurs in approximately 10–15% of persons older than 65 years and 15–20% of those older than 80 years.[3] In the US, PAD is approximately twice as common among Black persons as among non-Hispanic White persons.[3] PAD carries a substantial cardiovascular risk burden. The rate of cardiovascular events and death from cardiovascular causes among persons with PAD is 2 to 3 times as high as that among persons without PAD, even after adjustment for potential confounders.

HCC/RAF V28 Mapping

ICD-10 CODE(S)[2]	HCC CATEGORY (V28)	RAF (CNA)	DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT
I70.23x/I70.24x/ I70.25 (Native-artery atherosclerosis with ulceration)	HCC 263 — Atherosclerosis of Arteries of the Extremities with Ulceration or Gangrene	**1.118**	Native-artery atherosclerosis with **ulceration**. Document laterality and ulcer site; add an **L97.-** code for ulcer depth
I70.261/I70.262/ I70.263 (Native-artery atherosclerosis with gangrene)	HCC 263 — Atherosclerosis of Arteries of the Extremities with Ulceration or Gangrene	1.118	Native-artery atherosclerosis with **gangrene**, by laterality. Gangrene outranks ulceration; document tissue death/necrosis explicitly