Cerebrovascular accident (CVA) documentation

To capture the full disease burden of a patient's cerebrovascular condition, follow the documentation guidelines below, as applicable.

Do document: 'Acute stroke/TIA v. 'History' of stroke/TIA	*Do document:* Weakness (coded as PLEGIA) or hemiparesis
• 'Acute stroke' with the original diagnosis (Emergency or Inpatient) encounter **only.** • 'History of' following acute event encounter if no residual effects. • Update the problem list to avoid erroneous prompts in future visits.	• Laterality is associated with any weakness or paresis with pertinence to dominance. • Coders should default to 'right side dominant' unless otherwise indicated.
Do document: Any deficits the patient experiences	*Do document:* Ischemic vs hemorrhagic
• Residual effects impact recovery. o *Ex: Apraxia, ataxia, cognitive defects, facial weakness, or language impairments.* • Late effect or sequalae of a CVA; there is no time limit on coding late effects.	• Location of ischemia inclusive of specific vessel and laterality when able. • Location of a hemorrhage such as subarachnoid, intracerebral, or intracranial.

Coders can use radiology reports to locate the site, but documentation by a provider is ideal. [1]

Don't:

- Use 'acute stroke' for a follow up outpatient encounter. Acute stroke would be used for an emergency/inpatient type visit.
- Use 'history of CVA/TIA' if residual effects are present, document the residual effects.

References:

1. Sheri Poe Bernard Ccs-P. CDEO CPC CRC. *Risk Adjustment Documentation & Coding*, 2nd Edition. American Medical Association Press, pp.127-132.
2. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. *ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting (FY2024):* https://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Publications/ICD10CM/2024-Update/ICD-10-CM-Guidelines-April-1%20FY2024.pdf page 93.

3. Prescott, L., Manz, J., Reiter, A. (2023). *2023 ACDIS Outpatient Pocket Guide The essential CDI Resource for Outpatient Professionals* (pp. 364-368).: HCPro, a Simplify Compliance Brand.