

# Risk Adjustment Coding Academy- Coding Focus

## Don't let coding for tachycardia make your heart race!



### Types of Tachycardia

In adults, a heart rate of more than 100 beats per minute is called tachycardia.<sup>1</sup> Tachycardia can reduce the heart's ability to pump causing symptoms such as shortness of breath, chest pain, lightheadedness or loss of consciousness. If severe, it can also cause a heart attack or even death.

There are three types of tachycardia:

1. Atrial or Supraventricular Tachycardia
2. Sinus Tachycardia
3. Ventricular Tachycardia

### Supraventricular Tachycardia

Atrial or Supraventricular Tachycardia (SVT) is a rapid heart rate in the upper chambers of the heart. SVT happens when electrical signals in the heart's upper chambers fire abnormally. This interferes with the electrical signals coming from the sinoatrial node, the heart's natural pacemaker.

If SVT alone is documented, assign ICD-9 code 427.89 (no HCC), Other specified cardiac dysrhythmias.<sup>2</sup>

Some forms are called paroxysmal atrial tachycardia (PAT) or paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia (PSVT). Paroxysmal means the arrhythmia begins and ends sporadically. Atrial tachycardia

or SVT has to be documented as "paroxysmal" in order to assign ICD-9 code 427.0 (HCC 96), Paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia.

In ICD-10, code I47.1 (HCC 96), Supraventricular (paroxysmal) tachycardia, is inclusive of atrial tachycardia, PAT, SVT, and PSVT.<sup>3</sup> There is no distinction in the code assignment for atrial tachycardia or SVT documented as paroxysmal.

### Sinus Tachycardia

Sinus tachycardia is a regular increase in the heart rate. The sinoatrial node sends out electrical signals quicker than usual. The heart rate is fast, but the heart beats properly. Sinus tachycardia also leads to ICD-9 code 427.89 (no HCC), Other specified cardiac dysrhythmias.

In ICD-10, sinus tachycardia leads to code R00.0 (no HCC), Tachycardia unspecified, unless documented as "paroxysmal" which then leads to code I47.1 (HCC 96), PSVT.

### Ventricular Tachycardia

Ventricular tachycardia is a rapid heart rate in the lower chambers of the heart, the ventricles. Electrical signals in the ventricles fire irregularly, interfering with electrical signals coming from the sinoatrial node. The appropriate ICD-9 code for ventricular tachycardia is 427.1 (HCC 96), Paroxysmal ventricular tachycardia, (with or without documentation of "paroxysmal"). In ICD-10, ventricular tachycardia leads to code I47.2 (HCC 96), Ventricular tachycardia.

### Tachycardia Treatment

Treatment for tachycardia may include lifestyle changes, medicine, anticoagulants, pacemaker, cardiac

defibrillation and implanted cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs), cardiac ablation, and/or surgery. Look for evidence of current treatment such as tachycardia medication and/or anticoagulants. Tachycardia is considered historical status post surgical correction or when an electronic implant has been placed to treat tachycardia specifically. Per AHA Coding Clinic, "No code assignment is required if no attention or treatment is provided to the condition or device."<sup>4</sup>

### ICD-10 Mapping

The table below provides an ICD-9 to ICD-10 crosswalk for SVT and PSVT.

ICD-10 Mapping	
ICD-9 Code	ICD-10 Code
427.89 (no HCC)- Other specified cardiac dysrhythmias	I47.1 (HCC 96)- Supraventricular (paroxysmal) tachycardia
427.0 (HCC 96)- Paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia	

1 American Heart Association website, Tachycardia (accessed August 2015): heart.org

2 2012 Professional: International Classification of Diseases, 9th revision, Clinical Modification. Eden Prairie, MN: OptumInsight.

3 Anita Schmidt, K.K., &, P.W. (2016). ICD-10-CM Expert for Physicians. Optum360

4 AHA Coding Clinic, 1993, Issue 5, Sick Sinus Syndrome with previously installed pacemaker