

Support hierarchical condition category (HCC) coding with patient diagnosis, status and plan (DSP)

Provider documentation and coding provide a snapshot of a patient's health status. Patient risk scores are determined by government payors using the patient's demographic details and health status. Health status is identified by the ICD-10 diagnosis codes entered on provider claims for service. Some providers use the acronym DSP to ensure that their documentation supports the ICD-10 codes they enter on their claims. DSP stands for diagnosis, status and plan.

Consider the following to apply DSP in your documentation:

- **Diagnosis** – clearly and specifically document a diagnosis for all patient conditions evaluated or considered in your care on the date of the patient visit. Enter these diagnoses on your claim for service.
- **Status** – document the patient's symptoms, response to treatment, condition status (i.e., stable, worsening, improving) and reference any studies or evaluations that impact your impression and plan.
- **Plan** – document all studies, referrals and treatments you order for the patient. Link current medications to the diagnosis being treated. Indicate any planned follow-up with the patient.

An example of provider documentation with identification of DSP elements is noted in the table below. You will note an HCC coding opportunity that is often seen when HCC coding audits are performed.

Documentation	DSP component supported	Opportunity
HPI: 79-year-old woman returns for 1 week hospital follow-up after right-sided CVA with resultant left-sided hemiplegia. Hemiplegia, affecting UE & LE, is slightly improved since last seen at hospital discharge. She is in a wheelchair today, accompanied by her daughter, who cares for her at	Diagnosis • Post right CVA • Left hemiplegia Status • Hemiplegia slightly improved	

home. She is said to be making progress in outpatient PT.		
Exam: VSS...Weakness left arm and leg is less pronounced.	Status Less pronounced weakness	
Assessment: SP right CVA <i>This was the diagnosis submitted on the provider's claim for service</i>	Diagnosis SP right CVA (not an HCC)	Diagnosis Left-sided hemiplegia is documented and has its own ICD-10 code associated with an HCC risk factor score
Plan: Continue therapy. Follow up in 3 months	Plan - Continue therapy - Follow up in 3 months	

Additional information about HCC coding is available on Security Health Plan's Providers web page at www.securityhealth.org/providers/hcc.