

Hierarchical Condition Category (HCC) coding of chronic kidney disease

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a prevalent condition in Medicare Advantage (MA) members. It is associated with HCC coding in most risk models. Provider documentation and coding of the specific stage of CKD is imperative to assure proper ICD 10 CM diagnosis code and risk factor co-efficient assignment. CKD stage 3, 3a, 3b, 4 & 5 are associated with HCC coding while stage 1 & 2 are not.

When the stage of CKD is not specified in the patient document, the diagnosis must be coded as “unspecified” even if the patient’s lab values on the date of service indicates a stage 3 or higher level of disease. Coders are not allowed to interpret lab values and must rely on provider documentation to determine diagnosis code assignment.

Providers should consider the following when diagnosing CKD:

- Current (or most recent) CKD stage determines coding on date of service regardless of stage at other times.
- A combination code should be added to your claim when the patient has both of the following conditions unless you specifically indicate that the conditions are not related:
 - CKD and diabetes mellitus
 - CKD and hypertension
 - Hypertensive heart and chronic kidney disease is the correct combination code when the patient has hypertension with both heart and kidney involvement.
 - If heart failure is present, document and assign an additional code that identifies the type of heart failure.
- When the patient has both acute renal failure and CKD, the acute renal failure should also be documented and coded.
- After a kidney transplant, ESRD is considered cured & status post kidney transplant should be documented and coded along with the current CKD stage (if still has the condition).

Additional documentation to support CKD includes:

- Lab values (eGFR, BUN, creatinine)
- Causative condition (DM, hypertension)
- Treatment
- Complications

The following table includes the current ICD 10 diagnosis CM code assignments for CKD and HCC status:

CKD stage	Loss of kidney function	EGFR	ICD 10 CM code	HCC
1	Normal - slight decrease	=/≥90	N18.1	No
2	Mild	60-89	N18.2	No
3 unspecified	Mild - Severe	30-59	N18.30	Yes
3a	Mild – Mod	45-59	N18.31	Yes
3b	Mod-Severe	30-44	N18.32	Yes
4	Severe	15-29	N18.4	Yes
5	Kidney failure not requiring dialysis	<15	N18.5	Yes
6	ESRD requiring dialysis	<15	N18.6	Yes
Unspecified	Degree unknown	unknown	N18.9	No

Additional information about HCC coding is available on the Providers page of the Security Health Plan website at <https://www.securityhealth.org/providers/hcc>