

Documentation and Coding: Chronic Pancreatitis (CMS-HCC 34)

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At Healthfirst, we are committed to helping providers accurately document and code their patients' health records. This tip sheet is intended to assist providers and coding staff with the documentation and ICD-10-CM selection on services submitted to Healthfirst specifically for common types of **Chronic Pancreatitis**. It provides information from industry sources about proper coding practice. However, this document does not represent or guarantee that Healthfirst will cover and/or pay for services outlined. Coverage decisions are based on the terms of the applicable evidence of coverage and the provider's participation agreement. This includes the determination of any amounts that Healthfirst or the member owes the provider.

Chronic pancreatitis is inflammation of the pancreas that does not heal or improve—it gets worse over time and leads to permanent damage. Utilize the flow chart below for best practices, Clinical Documentation, and Coding purposes.

Alcohol-induced Chronic Pancreatitis K86.0	Other Chronic Pancreatitis K86.1	Clinical Documentation Requirements	Supportive Clinical Documentation
Additional Code Alcohol Abuse/ Dependence (F10–F10.99)	Includes: Infectious, Relapsing - Recurrent, Chronic Pancreatitis NOS	Document the acuity: Acute, Chronic	Diagnostic Tests: Abdominal Ultrasound, CT, MRCP, ERCP, MRI, Blood/ Stool test
Code also Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency (K86.81)	Code also Exocrine Pancreatic Insufficiency (K86.81)	Status of conditions: Stable, Improved, Worsening, Resolved	Treatment: Pain medications, IV fluids, Surgery, Islet Auto- Transplantation (TP-IAT), Whipple Procedure, Rx for Alcohol Abuse/ Dependence, Enzyme supplements, Change of diet
*Excludes 2 note - Alcohol-induced Acute Pancreatitis (K85.20–K85.22)		Other conditions: Cyst, Pseudocyst, Fibrosis, Cirrhosis, Calculus & Necrosis	

*Excludes 2 note represents "Not included here." An Excludes 2 note indicates that the condition excluded is not part of the condition represented by the code, but patient may have both conditions at the same time. When an Excludes 2 note appears under a code, it is acceptable to use both the code and the excluded code together, when appropriate.

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Coding Tip

Assign **Z87.19** - Personal history of other diseases of the digestive system (e.g., Pancreas transplant)

Coding Examples

Case	A 73-year-old woman is diagnosed with chronic pancreatitis due to exocrine pancreatic insufficiency. Assign the correct ICD-10-CM code(s) for these conditions.
ICD-10-CM	K86.1 - Other chronic pancreatitis K86.81 - Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency
Rationale	<p>Exocrine pancreatic insufficiency (EPI) (K86.81) refers to the inability to digest food properly due to a lack of exocrine pancreatic digestive enzymes. Chronic pancreatitis is the most common cause of EPI. Other etiologies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ cystic fibrosis,▪ obstructions of the pancreatic duct (e.g., from pancreatic cancer or ampullary tumors)▪ Schwachman-Diamond Syndrome <p>Once the pancreas becomes damaged to the point that the patient is unable to absorb fats, symptoms include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ abdominal pain or tenderness▪ foul-smelling bowel movements▪ diarrhea, gas, and bloated sensation <p>The patient may also start to lose weight, as the body isn't able to absorb enough vitamins.</p> <p>Source: <i>AHA Coding Clinic (VOLUME 3, FOURTH QUARTER, NUMBER 4, 2016, Page 34)</i></p>

Questions?

Contact us at #Risk_Adjustments_and_clinical_Documentation@healthfirst.org

For additional documentation and coding guidance, please visit the coding section at [HFproviders.org](https://www.healthfirst.org/healthfirst/providers).

Reference:

- [ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting](#)