

Cholangitis

CMS-HCC_V28 Model Updates

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, along with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Hierarchical Condition Category (HCC) Version 28 Model updates**, on services submitted to Healthfirst—specifically for common types of **Cholangitis**. 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 the 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.

Cholangitis is an infection or inflammation of the common bile duct NOT caused by calculus.

ICD-10-CM Codes and Descriptions

K83.01	Primary sclerosing cholangitis
K83.09	Other cholangitis

Code Additionally, if Present

K83.1	Obstruction of bile duct
--------------	--------------------------

Documentation and Coding

Clinical Documentation Recommendations			
Type	Obstruction of bile duct if present	Damage to the liver	Associated conditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary • Ascending cholangitis • Cholangitis NOS • Primary cholangitis • Recurrent cholangitis • Sclerosing cholangitis • Secondary cholangitis • Stenosing cholangitis • Suppurative cholangitis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occlusion of bile duct without cholelithiasis • Stenosis of bile duct without cholelithiasis • Stricture of bile duct without cholelithiasis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hepatosplenomegaly • Cirrhosis • Fibrosis • Liver failure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflammatory bowel disease • Ulcerative colitis • Connective tissue disorders • Autoimmune disorders • Immunodeficiency syndromes
Symptoms	Diagnostic tests	Treatment	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressive fatigue • Pruritus • Abdominal pain • Diarrhea • Jaundice • Fatigue • Fever 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography (MRCP) • Ultrasound • CT scan • Liver biopsy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supportive care • Monitoring • Antibiotics for bacterial cholangitis • Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) dilation for major (dominant) strictures • Transplantation for recurrent bacterial cholangitis or complications of liver failure 	

Documentation and Coding

Documentation Tips

- **Do not** use “history of” if the condition is still active (in diagnosis, “history of” implies the condition has resolved or no longer exists).
- **Do not** use terms that imply uncertainty (“likely,” “probable,” “apparently,” “consistent with,” etc.) to describe a current or confirmed diagnosis in the outpatient setting.

Coding Tips

- Cholangitis is not coded with Cholangitis with choledocholithiasis (**K80.3–K80.37, K80.4–K80.47**).
- Cholangitis is not coded with Cholangitis liver abscess (**K75.0**).
- Obstruction of bile duct (**K83.1**) is not coded together with Congenital obstruction of bile duct (**Q44.3**) and/or Obstruction of bile duct with cholelithiasis (**K80.-**).

Coding Example

Case	A patient is admitted for liver transplant due to end-stage liver disease secondary to primary sclerosing cholangitis. What are the appropriate diagnosis code assignments?
AHA Coding Clinic 2018 4th Quarter Rationale	Assign codes K72.90 , Hepatic failure, unspecified without coma and K83.01 , Primary sclerosing cholangitis.

Documentation and Coding

References

- <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2024-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines-updated-02/01/2024.pdf>
- [Cholelithiasis and Cholangitis - Hepatic and Biliary Disorders - Merck Manuals Professional Edition](#)

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](#).

Interested in receiving Healthfirst provider updates? Join our mailing list at [HFproviders.org/subscribe](#).

Coverage is provided by Healthfirst Health Plan, Inc., Healthfirst PHSP, Inc., and/or Healthfirst Insurance Company, Inc. (together, "Healthfirst").

1227-24 <REGCODE>

Cholangitis

[HFproviders.org](#)