

Hepatitis B

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 **Hepatitis B**. 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 amount that Healthfirst or the member owes the provider.

Hepatitis B virus (HBV) is a hepadnavirus that is transmitted parenterally through contaminated blood or blood products, by infected intravenous drug users sharing needles, and through sexual contact with an infected person. Hepatitis B causes inflammation of the liver and may be acute or chronic.

ICD-10 Codes and Descriptions

B16.0	Acute hepatitis B with delta-agent with hepatic coma
B16.1	Acute hepatitis B with delta-agent without hepatic coma
B16.2	Acute hepatitis B without delta-agent with hepatic coma
B16.9	Acute hepatitis B without delta-agent and without hepatic coma Hepatitis B (acute) (viral) NOS
B18.0	Chronic viral hepatitis B with delta-agent
B18.1	Chronic viral hepatitis B without delta-agent Carrier of viral hepatitis B Chronic (viral) hepatitis B

Documentation and Coding

Type of Hepatitis	Description
Acute	A short-term illness that occurs within the first six months after someone is exposed to the hepatitis B virus.
Chronic	An inflammation of the liver lasting longer than six months with a positive blood test for HBV beyond the six-month period following the acute infection. Patients are at risk for developing cirrhosis, liver failure, and liver cancer.

Clinical Documentation Recommendations for Hepatitis B	
Acuity	Chronic, Acute, with/without Hepatic Coma
Status of Condition	Stable, Improved, Worsening, etc.
Associated Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Document to the highest level of specificity of hepatitis diagnosis and associated conditionsCirrhosis of liver, Hepatorenal Syndrome, Hepatopulmonary Syndrome, Hepatic Failure, Malignant Neoplasm of Liver and Intra-Hepatic Bile Ducts, Alcoholic Liver Disease
Medical Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ordered Tests (i.e. Ultrasound), Follow-up, Surveillance, and/or ReferralsFor patients who have had a Liver Transplant, document the Transplant Status code along with Medical ManagementViral Load Notation – Negative/Positive

Coding and Documentation Tips

- Clinical documentation for Hepatitis B (HBV) requires strict differentiation between **acute** and **chronic** phases based on the infection's duration, symptom presentation, and specific serological markers.
- **State the Timeframe Clearly:** Explicitly note whether the patient is newly infected (acute (≤6 months) or if there is a history of infection lasting (>6 months (chronic).
- **Support with Labs:** Always document the specific antigen/antibody results (especially the presence or absence of IgM anti-HBc) to validate the diagnosis.
- **Specify Chronic Phase/Complications:** For chronic cases, document the specific clinical phase (e.g., immune-tolerant, immune-active, inactive CHB) and any complications such as cirrhosis or hepatocellular carcinoma.
- **Clarify Acute Exacerbations:** If a patient with known chronic HBV presents with acute liver injury, document whether this is an *acute exacerbation* or a *new acute superinfection* (like Hep D), using the [CDC Hepatitis B Surveillance Guidance](#)

Documentation and Coding

Coding Example

Case 1	A 48-year-old male presents for a follow up visit with a history of intravenous drug use and a diagnosis of chronic hepatitis B infection. Pt is in remission, status post antiviral treatment and viral load that has suppressed.
ICD-10-CM Code	B18.1 - Chronic viral hepatitis B without delta-agent
Rationale	For chronic hepatitis B described as in remission, code B18.1 , Although the patient is currently asymptomatic, the condition is still present.

References

- [2026 ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines](#)
- [Codingclinicadvisor.com](#)
- [AAPC.com](#)
- [Hepatitis B | CDC](#)
- [Hepatitis B - ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](#)

Questions?

Contact us at [#Risk Adjustments and clinical Documentation@healthfirst.org](mailto:Risk_Adjustments_and_clinical_Documentation@healthfirst.org).

For additional documentation and coding guidance, please visit the coding section on [HFproviders.org](#)

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