

Documentation and Coding: Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)

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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 chronic kidney disease (CKD). 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.

This tip sheet will offer guidance on how to submit diagnosis codes with greater specificity for coding CKD classified based on severity, by stages 1–5 and End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD).

CKD, Stage 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N18.1 • GFR \geq 90
CKD, Stage 2 (Mild)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N18.2 • GFR 60-89
CKD, Stage 3 (Moderate)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N18.30 - CKD Stage 3 Unspecified • N18.31 - CKD Stage 3a GFR 45-59 • N18.32 - CKD Stage 3b GFR 30-44 <p><i>These new codes are effective from 10/01/2020</i></p>
CKD, Stage 4 (Severe)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N18.4 • GFR 15-29
CKD, Stage 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N18.5 • GFR < 15
End Stage Renal Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N18.6 • On Dialysis
Dependence on Renal Dialysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Z99.2

Documentation and Coding:

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)

Keywords for Coding:

- CKD, Stage 5 states if CKD requires dialysis, report it as ESRD.
- ESRD includes requiring Chronic Dialysis, add code to identify Dialysis Status (Z99.2).
- If both stage of CKD & ESRD are documented, assign only N18.6.
- Physician should document the condition to the highest level of specificity. When stage is not documented in the chart, assign code N18.9 and/or:
 - Chronic uremia NOS
 - Diffuse sclerosing glomerulonephritis NOS
 - Chronic renal insufficiency
 - Chronic renal failure NOS
- CKD with complications:
 - Hypertension (I12.0, I12.9)
 - Diabetes (E10.22 – Type 1 DM, E11.22 – Type 2 DM)
- Document the specific stage of CKD. (Do not calculate stage of CKD based on GFR or lab values.)
- Updated status of CKD (stable, improved, and/or worsening).

CKD and Associated Conditions

- When no other cause is specified, ICD-10-CM presumes a **cause-and-effect** relationship using linking terms, such as “with,” “due to,” “secondary to,” “associated with,” “related to,” etc. and use terms such as **“Hypertensive” or “Diabetic.”**
 - e.g., Diabetic and hypertensive CKD, Stage 4

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Hypertension and CKD	Hypertension, Heart Disease, and CKD	Diabetes and CKD	Hypertension, Diabetes, and CKD
Assign code from Category I12 when both Hypertension and CKD are present (unless the documentation indicates hypertension is not cause of CKD).	Assign code from Category I13 when documentation supports both Hypertensive Heart Disease and Hypertensive Kidney Disease.	When both Diabetes and CKD are supported, code these conditions as related unless the documentation clearly indicates the conditions are unrelated.	When CKD, Hypertension, and Diabetes Mellitus (DM) are supported and no cause- and-effect linkage among any combination of the three, code both Hypertensive CKD and Diabetic CKD.
Add code for stage of CKD.	Add code for stage of CKD.	Add code for stage of CKD.	Add code for stage of CKD.
If patient has hypertensive CKD and Acute Renal Failure (ARF), add additional code for ARF.	If Heart Failure is present, add code from Category I50 .		

Please Note:

Do not document past/resolved CKD as if it is current when the condition is historical and no longer exists as a current problem.

- e.g., History of CKD that was resolved with a Kidney Transplant

Document a specific, concise treatment plan for CKD.

- Such as Dialysis Status (hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, frequency)

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Documentation of Dialysis Status (Z99.2) & Kidney Transplant Status (Z94.0) and Arteriovenous (AV) Fistula

Dialysis Code Examples	ICD-10-CM
Dialysis Status/Dependence on renal dialysis (or presence of an AV fistula/shunt)	Z99.2
Admission/encounter for dialysis	Z49*
Patient's noncompliance renal dialysis	Z91.15
Kidney Transplant Code Examples	
Kidney Transplant Status	Z94.0
Complications of Kidney Transplant	T86.1*
AV Fistula Code Examples (<i>AV Fistula often created for Hemodialysis for Patients with CKD</i>)	
AV Fistula, surgically created	Z99.2
AV Fistula, acquired (due to disease or trauma)	I77.0
AV Fistula, Congenital	Q24*- Q28*
AV Fistula, Complication	T82.9*

*Requires an additional digit to complete diagnosis code.

Examples of CKD

Assessment/Plan	CKD Stage 5 on chronic routine hemodialysis M, W, F
ICD-10-CM	N18.6 ESRD Z99.2 Dependence on Renal Dialysis (AV Fistula, surgically created is inclusive in this code).
ICD-10-CM Official Guideline	CKD, Stage 5 (N18.5) has an Exclude1 note that states if CKD requires dialysis, report it as ESRD (N18.6) and use an additional code to identify dialysis status (Z99.2).
Assessment/Plan	I) Type 2 DM; II) CKD Stage 4
ICD-10-CM	E11.22 Type 2 DM with Diabetic CKD N18.4 CKD, Stage 4
ICD-10-CM Official Guideline	Documentation does not link Type 2 Diabetes to Stage 4 CKD. However, ICD-10-CM presumes the linkage when no other cause is documented.

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Examples of CKD *(continued)*

Assessment/Plan	I) Acute Kidney Injury; II) CKD Stage 2
ICD-10-CM	N17.9 Acute Kidney Failure (AKF) Unspecified N18.2 CKD, Stage 2
ICD-10-CM Official Guideline	For patients with both ARF and CKD, both conditions should also be coded. Sequence according to the circumstances of the admission/encounter.
Assessment/Plan	A patient with a history of a kidney transplant presents with ARF due to dehydration. Is acute renal failure always considered a complication of the kidney transplant?
ICD-10-CM	T86.19 Other complication of kidney transplant N17.9 AKF, unspecified E86.0 Dehydration
AHA Coding Clinic <i>(Volume 6 Second Quarter 2019)</i>	Assign codes T86.19, Other complication of kidney transplant; N17.9, AKF, unspecified; and E86.0, Dehydration, to capture the effect on the transplanted kidney with the ARF and dehydration. Code T86.19 is assigned to capture the fact that the function of the transplanted kidney is affected by the ARF, but the transplant itself has not failed.
Assessment/Plan	Anemia in CKD Stage 5
ICD-10-CM	N18.5 CKD, Stage 5 D63.1 Anemia in CKD
ICD-10-CM Official Guideline	Code first underlying CKD (N18.-) (N18-N18.9)

Questions?

Contact us at [#Risk_Adjustments_and_clinical_Documentation@healthfirst.org](https://twitter.com/RiskAdjustments_and_clinical_Documentation@healthfirst.org).

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

References:

[AHIMA.org](https://www.ahima.org), [AAPC.com](https://www.aapc.com), [National Kidney Foundation](https://www.nkf.org), [Merck Manual](https://www.merckmanual.com); [ICD-10-CM-Guidelines2021](https://www.ahima.org); [CodingClinicAdvisor.com](https://www.codingclinicadvisor.com)