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Medicare Advantage

Documentation and coding tips: Chronic kidney disease and acute renal failure

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is estimated to affect 37 million, or 15% of the U.S. adult population.[1] The National Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative guidelines for CKD promote classification of all individuals with CKD into one of five stages. The different stages of CKD require different interventions to slow the progression of disease, thus, it is clinically important to stage CKD. Screening for CKD should include people at risk, those with a family history or current condition of hypertension, and/or diabetes or any renal disease.

Staging chronic kidney disease[2]

Note: CKD is defined as either kidney damage or glomerular filtration rate (GFR) <60 ml/min/1.73 m² for ≥3 months.

Stage/severity	GFR value/description	ICD-10-CM code
Stage 1 (Normal or slightly increased GFR)	GFR ≥90 ml/min/1.73 m² with *kidney damage**	N18.1
Stage 2 (Mild)	GFR 60–89 ml/min/1.73 m² with *kidney damage**	N18.2
Stage 3 (Moderate)	GFR 30–59 ml/min/1.73 m² (stage 3, unspecified)	**N18.30**
	GFR 45–59 ml/min/1.73 m² (stage 3a)	**N18.31**
	GFR 30–44 ml/min/1.73 m² (stage 3b)	**N18.32**
Stage 4 (Severe)	GFR 15–29 ml/min/1.73 m²	**N18.4**
Stage 5 kidney failure or end-stage renal disease (ESRD)	GFR <15 ml/min/1.73 m²	**N18.5**
	ESRD: requiring chronic dialysis or transplantation	**N18.6**
CKD unspecified	Chronic kidney disease, unspecified (CRD, CRF NOS or CRI)	N18.9

* Kidney damage is defined as pathologic abnormalities or markers of damage, including abnormalities in blood or urine tests (for example, untimed spot urine albumin/creatinine ratio or microalbumin-sensitive dipstick) or imaging studies.

Dialysis and kidney transplant

ICD-10-CM code	Description
Z99.2	Dependence on renal dialysis or presence of arteriovenous (AV) shunt for dialysis
Z91.151 ●	Patient's noncompliance with renal dialysis due to financial hardship
Z91.158 ●	Patient's noncompliance with renal dialysis for other reason

ICD-10-CM code	Description
Z94.0	Kidney transplant status *Note: Patients may still have CKD, because the kidney transplant may not fully restore kidney function.*
Z91.A51 ●	Caregiver's noncompliance with patient's renal dialysis due to financial hardship
Z91.A58 ●	Caregiver's noncompliance with patient's renal dialysis due to other reason

Secondary hyperparathyroidism of renal origin (SHPT)

SHPT is a consequence of late-stage CKD, when the body's calcium, vitamin D, and phosphorus are out of balance. Patients with stage 3, 4 and 5 CKD are at risk of SHPT. *Note: Use additional code to identify stage of chronic kidney disease (N18.1–***N18.6***).*

ICD-10-CM code	Description
N25.81	Secondary hyperparathyroidism of renal origin

Acute renal failure

Note: Code also associated underlying condition

ICD-10-CM code	Description
N17.0	Acute kidney failure with tubular necrosis
N17.1	Acute kidney failure with acute cortical necrosis
N17.2	Acute kidney failure with medullary necrosis
N17.8	Other acute kidney failure
N17.9	Acute kidney failure, unspecified (acute kidney injury, nontraumatic)

Consider reviewing Optum tools related to coexisting conditions, such as diabetes, hypertension and malnutrition, if applicable.

Documentation and coding tips

- **CKD:** Document the stage of CKD. The diagnosis of CKD cannot be coded from a GFR value alone since it cannot imply the stage. If both a stage of CKD and ESRD are documented, assign code **N18.6** only (for ESRD).
- ICD-10-CM presumes a causal relationship between diabetes and CKD (**E11.22**), hypertension and CKD (I12.-) and hypertensive heart disease and CKD (I13.-), unless the documentation states they are unrelated.
- **Acute renal failure:** If patient has temporary dialysis, document appropriately and code **Z99.2** (dialysis status).
- If a patient has hypertensive chronic kidney disease and acute renal failure, the acute renal failure should also be coded. Sequence according to the circumstances of the admission/encounter.

Per the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2024: "A dash (-) at the end of an Alphabetic Index entry indicates that additional characters are required. Even if a dash is not included at the Alphabetic Index entry, it is necessary to refer to the Tabular List to verify that no 7th character is required." The bolding of the ICD-10-CM codes represents categories, subcategories or codes that map to the CMS-HCC risk adjustment model for payment year 2024.

Codes marked with a ● directly after them represent new additions to the FY 2024 ICD-10-CM code classification.

The following references were used in the creation of this document at time of publication:

- Optum360. *ICD-10-CM: Professional for Physicians 2024*. Salt Lake City, UT: Optum360; 2023.

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Chronic Kidney Disease in the United States, 2024. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2021. December 7, 2023.
2. National Kidney Foundation. Guidelines and commentaries. Accessed December 7, 2023.

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This tool is to be used for easy reference; however, the current ICD-10-CM code classification and the Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting are the authoritative references for accurate and complete coding. The information presented herein is for general informational purposes only. Neither Optum nor its affiliates warrant or represent that the information contained herein is complete, accurate or free from defects. Specific documentation is reflective of the "thought process" of the provider when treating patients. All conditions affecting the care, treatment or management of the patient should be documented with their status and treatment plan and coded to the highest level of specificity. Enhanced precision and accuracy in the codes selected is the ultimate goal. Lastly, on March 31, 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that 2023 dates of service for the 2024 payment year model are based on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Announcement. Announcement of Calendar Year (CY) 2024 Medicare Advantage (MA) Capitation Rates and Part C and Part D Payment Policies (cms.gov).

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