

Chronic Kidney Disease Coding Reference

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Problem and Goal

Problem

- TriCore receives conflicting diagnoses (Dx) codes that should not be reported together.
- Invalid or incomplete diagnosis code or narrative provided.

Goal

- To provide a general understanding of ICD-10-CM diagnosis coding guidelines for TriCore to receive diagnoses to describe the patient's condition without conflicting information and be provided with valid diagnoses.

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Diagnosis Conflicts

Only the current CKD stage should be reported based on documentation in the patient's medical records.

- Multiple chronic kidney disease stages
 - Which CKD stage best describes the patient's current condition based on documentation in the patient's medical records?
 - For example, CKD stage 4 **or** ESRD, not both

Chronic Kidney Disease Stage 3 coding changed October 1, 2020

- CKD Stage 3 is coded as stage 3a, 3b, or stage 3 unspecified.
 - N18.3 for CKD stage 3 is no longer valid as it requires a 5th digit to further specify the stage.
- Documentation in the medical record should support the appropriate stage at the time of service.

Hypertensive CKD Diagnosis Conflicts

Only one hypertensive CKD stage should be reported based on documentation in the patient's medical records.

- Multiple hypertensive CKD stages
 - Which hypertensive CKD stage best describes the patient's condition based on documentation in the medical records?
 - For example, hypertensive CKD stage 2 **or** hypertensive CKD stage 5, not both.
- Providing a hypertensive CKD stage that conflicts with the N18 code that represents the CKD stage.
 - Is the hypertensive CKD stage consistent with the N18 code provided for the CKD stage?
 - For example, hypertensive CKD stage 4 provided with the N18. code for ESRD has inconsistent CKD stages.

This is not an all-inclusive list of coding guidelines and instructions.

These are examples only and TriCore does not encourage use of these codes unless they describe the patient's condition and are documented in the patient's chart.

Resources

- Please refer to ICD-10-CM Coding Book and Guidelines for further guidance

- ICD-10-CM coding book download

- <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/icd-10/2021-icd-10-cm>

- ICD-10-CM Coding Guidelines

- <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/2021-coding-guidelines.pdf>