

# Hypertension Coding Reference

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# Problem and Goal

## Problem

- TriCore received conflicting diagnoses (Dx) codes that should not be reported together.

## Goal

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

# Hypertension Diagnosis Conflicts

Providing Dx (I10) for hypertension and a Dx for a combination code (I11 –I13) for hypertensive heart disease, heart failure, and/or chronic kidney disease (CKD).

- Hypertension (I10) is included in the combination codes I11 – I13\*
  - For example, hypertension (I10) or hypertensive CKD (I12.-), not both

\*Per ICD-10-CM coding guidelines

- Assign only the combination code when that code fully identifies the diagnostic conditions involved or when the Alphabetic Index so directs.
- Multiple coding should not be used when the classification provides a combination code that clearly identifies all of the elements documented in the diagnosis.
- When the combination code lacks necessary specificity in describing the manifestation or complication, an additional code should be used as a secondary code.

# Hypertensive Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Diagnosis Conflicts

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

- Multiple hypertensive chronic kidney disease stages
  - Which hypertensive CKD stage best describes the patient's current 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

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 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>