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Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)

DOCUMENTATION AND CODING

CKD is defined as persistent kidney damage for three or more consecutive months, as evidenced by structural or functional abnormalities of the kidney, with or without decreased estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) $\text{mL}/\text{min}/1.73 \text{ m}^2$. The main causes of CKD are hypertension and diabetes. CKD has no cure, but early identification and treatment can help control symptoms, reduce complications and slow progression of the disease. Kidney disease is the 8th leading cause of death in the U.S. with 1 in 3 adults at risk for kidney disease.¹

Include in medical record

When documenting CKD to the highest level of specificity using the patient's estimated glomerular filtration rate, include:

- Cause: any underlying causes of CKD.
- Status: acute, chronic, stable or improving.
- Stage: stage 1 through stage 5 or end-stage renal disease (ESRD).
- Treatment: medications, dietary modifications, or dialysis.

Coding information

ICD-10-CM code² classifies CKD to category N18, and the severity of the stages, 1-5. The number of each stage corresponds to the fourth character of the code and is primarily related to the eGFR.

ICD-10-CM code	Description	eGFR
N18.1	Stage 1 CKD, with normal or slightly decreased kidney function	≥ 90
N18.2	Stage 2 CKD, mild kidney damage with slight decrease in kidney function	60 - 89
N18.30	Stage 3 CKD, unspecified (non-billable for reimbursement)	-
N18.31	Stage 3a CKD, moderate decrease in kidney function	45 - 59
N18.32	Stage 3b CKD, moderate to severe decrease in kidney function	30 - 44
N18.4	Stage 4 CKD, severe decrease in kidney function	15 - 29
N18.5	Stage 5 CKD, severe loss of kidney function	< 15
N18.6	End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) includes CKD requiring chronic dialysis	< 15
N18.9	CKD, unspecified	-

Coding comorbidities:

ICD-10-CM code	Description
E08.22	Diabetic mellitus due to underlying condition with diabetic CKD
E09.22	Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus with diabetic CKD
E10.22	Type 1 diabetes mellitus with diabetic CKD
E11.22	Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic CKD
I12.0	Hypertensive CKD with stage 5 CKD or end-stage renal disease (ESRD)
I12.9	Hypertensive CKD with stage 1 through 4 CKD, or unspecified CKD
I13.0	Hypertensive heart & CKD with heart failure & stage 1-4 CKD, or unspecified kidney disease
I13.10	Hypertensive heart & CKD without heart failure & stage 1-4 CKD, or unspecified kidney disease
I13.11	Hypertensive heart & CKD without heart failure & stage 5 CKD, or ESRD
I13.2	Hypertensive heart & CKD with heart failure & stage 5 CKD, or ESRD
Z94.0	Kidney transplant status
Z99.2	Dependence on renal dialysis

Tips for success

It is important to use the proper description when coding CKD:

- Renal insufficiency (N28.9) is a general term. Avoid using renal insufficiency when a specific CKD stage or more precise level of kidney decline is documented.
- Patients with a kidney transplant may still have CKD. Code the appropriate N18- code for the CKD stage and code Z94.0 for transplant status, if applicable. CKD after transplant does not automatically mean it is a transplant complication.

¹National Kidney Foundation, Kidney Disease fact sheet. 2024. [Kidney Disease: Fact Sheet | National Kidney Foundation](#).

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