

Molina Healthcare Coding Education

Avoid Nonspecific Codes – Unspecified CKD and Nephropathy



Question: I've been calling the condition "CKD" (chronic kidney disease) in my EMR. Should I be more specific?

Answer: Unspecified CKD (585.9) and Nephropathy (583.9) are considered less than precise. It is important to code to the highest level of specificity

Code 585.x is more specific (x=stage of CKD).

- Older codes do not specify acute vs. chronic, or show severity
- For a 65-69 year old patient, Acute Renal Failure (584.9) indicates a much higher severity of illness. For this same patient, CKD 4, 5, and ESRD (585.4, 585.5, 585.6) indicates the member's illness is of a lower severity.

Thus CKD 4, 5, and ESRD are superseded by Acute Renal Failure when determining severity of illness

Documentation Examples:

- **Assessment:** Patient with DM and CKD3 per lab

Diabetes Mellitus II

- **ICD-10 Code:** E11.22 Type 2 DM with diabetic chronic kidney disease 2

Chronic Kidney Disease, Stage 3

- **ICD-10 Code:** N18.3 CKD, stage 3 (moderate)

Plan: Advise patient to avoid NSAID's d/t CKD and continue measuring blood sugar 2-3 x daily

OR

- **Assessment:** Patient with CKD 3 due to DM, stable, sugar well-controlled with meds

Plan: Continue ACEI and glipizide

N18.1 Chronic kidney disease, stage 1 GFR \geq 90 plus other evidence of kidney disease

N18.2 Chronic kidney disease, stage 2 (mild) GFR 60-89 plus other evidence of kidney disease

N18.3 Chronic kidney disease, stage 3 (moderate) GFR 30-59

N18.4 Chronic kidney disease, stage 4 (severe) GFR 15-29

N18.5 Chronic kidney disease, stage 5 GFR less than 15

N18.6 End Stage Renal Disease (on dialysis)

On Dialysis ICD-9: V45.11, ICD-10: Z99.2

N17.9 Acute Renal Failure

Have Questions?

Contact: Ramp@MolinaHealthcare.com