

NO ANNUAL MEETING THIS YEAR

You will receive a special email in October with important MetroCare and HealthChoice updates and the information necessary for online board election voting.

Properly Coding Hypertension

When assigning diagnosis codes, adherence to the Official Coding Guidelines for ICD-10-CM issued by CMS and the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is required under the HIPAA laws to promote uniformity in coding.

The official guidelines in the ICD-10-CM manual give specific instructions for coding primary hypertension in patients with heart disease and/or chronic kidney disease.

Hypertension is presumed, by convention, to be causative for the heart and/or kidney disease in these patients unless documented otherwise by the physician. Thus it must be coded in one of these categories:

- I 11._ Hypertensive Heart disease OR
- I 12._ Hypertensive Chronic Kidney Disease OR
- I 13._ Hypertensive Heart and Chronic Kidney Disease

[click here](#)
for coding
detail

*** The N code specifying the stage of CKD must also be included whenever CKD is present***

Though an I 10 diagnosis (Essential Hypertension) may be applicable to some patients, it is a non-specific code that should not be used as a go-to diagnosis for many of your hypertensive patients. How many of your elderly hypertensive patients have no cardiac or chronic kidney disease?

In patients with heart failure due to hypertensive heart disease, code first I 11.0, I13.0 or I 13.2 for the type of hypertensive disease with heart failure, then code also the specific I 50 code for the type of heart failure.

Continue to use diabetes combination codes as appropriate for patients with diabetes and hypertensive disease, such as E 11.22, diabetes with CKD, in addition to the HTN combination codes.



Important Takeaways

I 10 is a nonspecific code much like the E11.9 code for diabetes without complications . It can be accurate, but generally shouldn't be thought of as a default code for frequent use.

HTN in a patient with cardiac disease and/or CKD should most often be coded as:

- I 11._ Hypertensive Heart Disease OR
- I 12._ Hypertensive Chronic Kidney Disease OR
- I 13._ Hypertensive Heart and CKD

The N code specifying the stage of CKD must always be included when CKD is present.

Hypertensive heart disease with failure gets the proper HTN code first, then the I 50 failure type-specific code should be added.

The Problem with Problem Lists

Problem lists can be a source of misinformation when filled with outdated problems. They should be viewed and updated at each encounter. This practice:

- prevents old diagnoses from being reported as current, especially if you drag and drop from the problem list to your assessment and plan
- allows for correction of nonspecific diagnoses to more specific ones, possibly leading to an HCC designation
- gives a truer picture of the patient to other clinicians sharing in that patient's care

Webinar: Official Coding Guidelines for Physicians

SEPT 15 6:00-7:30 PM

MetroCare is offering an evening seminar on the Official Coding Guidelines geared especially for those clinicians who code their own encounters.

Attend online and invite any of your clinical staff who may code/scribe for you.

We invite you and your staff to join us for a discussion of the proper rules for diagnostic coding. Many who are not certified coders may be completely unaware of the existence of these Official Coding Guidelines.

[Click here](#) for further information and to RSVP

We Are Here to Assist You

A dedicated team of professionals is committed to assuring MetroCare physicians have the tools and resources to achieve success with the changes required by transition to value-based healthcare.

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