

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a gradual loss of kidney function, causing elevated levels of fluid, electrolytes and waste buildup. Symptoms impact the entire body, including heart, lungs and brain. Early detection, such as annual urine and blood tests, and treatment focus on slowing the progression of kidney damage by controlling the cause.

Clear, concise documentation should include the highest known level of specificity during the visit to ensure optimal care and accurate coding. **Please refrain from unspecified verbiage if greater specificity is known.**

Best Documentation Practices

- **Underlying comorbidities**, e.g., hypertension, diabetes, obesity, prolonged obstruction of urinary tract
- **CKD stage**, reflecting the current kidney function
- **Relevant diagnostic test results**, e.g., eGFR, albumin, creatinine levels, ultrasound, MRI, CT scan
- **Complications**, e.g., anemia, secondary hyperparathyroidism, hyperkalemia
- **Treatment**, including changes in medications
- **Dialysis status**, if applicable, e.g., type of dialysis, presence of AV shunt for dialysis, noncompliance
- **Kidney transplant status**, if applicable
 - If kidney function is not fully restored, also document current CKD stage

CKD Staging		
Stage	GFR value	ICD-10-CM
1 normal or high GFR	GFR ≥ 90 ml/min/1.73 m ² with kidney damage	N18.1
2 mild	GFR 60-89 ml/min/1.73 m ² with kidney damage	N18.2
3 (unspecified) moderate	GFR 30-59 ml/min/1.73 m ²	N18.30
3a moderate	GFR 45-59 ml/min/1.73 m ²	N18.31
3b moderate	GFR 30-44 ml/min/1.73 m ²	N18.32
4 severe	GFR 15-29 ml/min/1.73 m ²	N18.4
5 end-stage renal disease (ESRD), <i>not yet requiring</i> chronic dialysis or transplant*	GFR < 15 ml/min/1.73 m ²	N18.5
6 end-stage renal disease (ESRD), <i>requiring</i> chronic dialysis or transplant for survival*	N/A	N18.6
Unspecified CKD, chronic renal insufficiency or chronic renal failure	N/A	N18.9
* Per 2025 ICD-10-CM Expert for Physicians Coding Manual		

Dialysis and Kidney Transplant Status	
Description	ICD-10-CM
Dependence on renal dialysis or presence of arteriovenous (AV) shunt for dialysis	Z99.2
Patient's noncompliance with renal dialysis	Z91.15
Kidney transplant status	Z94.0

For questions or more information, please contact:

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