

Alzheimer's Disease is a progressive neurologic disorder that causes the atrophy of the brain and the cells to die. There are no known treatments for Alzheimer's disease.

Types of Alzheimer's Disease:

- Alzheimer's Disease with early-onset (G30.0)
- Alzheimer's Disease with late-onset (G30.1)
- Other Alzheimer's Disease (G30.8)
- Alzheimer's Disease, unspecified (G30.9)

Signs and Symptoms

Memory loss is a symptom of Alzheimer's disease. There are early signs such as short-term memory loss. In the progression of the disease the memory impairments worsen. Other symptoms include.

- Confusion
- Inability to think and reason, to make decisions and to plan and perform familiar tasks.
- Personality and behavioral changes.
- Hallucinations
- Difficulty recognizing family members and friends
- Restlessness, aggression, anxiety

Risk factors

There are different risk factors that can increase the chances of Alzheimer's Disease.

- Increased aging
- Women are more likely to get this disease.
- Family History of this disease.
- A person with down syndrome
- Severe Head Traumas
- Medical conditions such as high cholesterol levels and high blood pressure.

Complications

- Patients may have an inability to communicate if they may experience any physical discomfort.
- Unable to follow prescription regiment plans.
- Difficulty swallowing
- Higher risk for other health problems like bladder or bowel control.

Diagnostics Tools

Diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease is based on memory skills tests and other medical factors.

- Physical exam
- Neurological exam.
- Mental neuropsychological testing psychological evaluation.
- Lab tests.
- CT Scan of the brain
- MRI of the brain

Treatment

There are Alzheimer's medications available that assist with memory symptoms and cognitive changes.

- Cholinesterase inhibitors.
- Memantine (Namenda).

Clinical Documentation and Coding Tips

- Always document it to the highest level of specificity
- SOAP Notes documentation tips:
 - **Subjective** – The subjective section of the office note should document any current

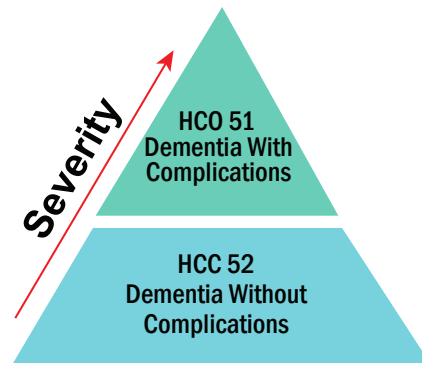
symptoms or patient complaints related to the mental disorder.

- **Objective** – In the objective section, include any current associated physical exam findings (such as flat affect, agitation, flight of ideas, etc.) and results of diagnostic testing.
- **Assessment** – Avoid vague diagnosis descriptions, e.g., “other” or “unspecified.” Document each condition to the highest level of specificity.
- **Plan** – Document a specific and concise treatment plan for Alzheimer’s disease, including date of next appointment. Clearly link the Alzheimer’s disease diagnosis to any medications that are being used to treat it. Document to whom or where referrals are made or from whom consultation advice is requested.

Medicare Hierarchal Condition Categories (HCC)

-Hierarchical condition category (HCC) coding is a risk-adjustment model designed to estimate future health care costs for patients. This model filters ICD-10CM codes into diagnosis groups (DxGs), and then into Conditions Categories (CCs). Hierarchies or families are placed to gain an HCC numeric code, which translates to a risk adjustment factor (RAF) value. Each diagnosis code found in the model, as a stand-alone diagnosis code or within a family or hierarchy, carries a value through RAF, but this value can change if the patient has other influencing factors such as ESRD, hospice, or are dual-eligible. Families or hierarchies set a value based on severity of illness, with more severe diagnoses carrying the overall risk score for that family. Diagnoses within families or hierarchies are inclusive of one another, while any additional diagnoses from other hierarchies or stand-alone diagnoses are additive and increase each patient’s overall risk score.

Alzheimer's Disease is a chronic condition that falls within the category “Dementia Without Complications” (HCC 52) with an average RAF Score 0.453



Coding Alzheimer’s Disease.

There are four (4) ICD - 10CM codes applicable for coding Alzheimer’s Disease.

ICD-10 Code	Code description
G30.0	Alzheimer’s Disease with early onset
G30.1	Alzheimer’s Disease with late onset
G30.8	Other Alzheimer’s Disease
G30.9	Alzheimer’s Disease, unspecified

Always Remember

- Follow the ICD-10 CM official coding guidelines and conventions.
- Select the correct ICD-10 CM code to the highest specificity.