

Chronic kidney disease also known as chronic renal failure or CKD refers to a progressive condition characterized by gradual loss of kidney function over time, decreasing their ability to work properly. In advance stages, dangerous levels of fluid, electrolytes and wastes can build up in the body.

Chronic Kidney Disease Stages

Stage Description

I	Mild kidney disease stage 1 (N18.1)
II	Mild kidney Disease stage 2 (N18.2)
III	Moderate Kidney disease stage 3 (N18.30)
IIIa	Moderate kidney disease stage 3a (N18.31)
IIIb	Moderate kidney disease stage 3b (N18.32)
IV	Severe kidney disease stage 4 (N18.4)
V	Severe kidney disease Stage 5 (N18.5)
	End Stage Renal Disease Stage 6 (N18.6)

Causes

CKD occurs when a disease or condition impairs kidney function, causing kidney damage to worsen over several months or years. The two main causes of chronic kidney disease are Diabetes and high blood pressure. Other conditions that affect the kidney are:

- Glomerulonephritis
- Interstitial nephritis
- Polycystic kidney disease
- Prolonged obstruction of the urinary tract, from conditions such as enlarged prostate, kidney stones and some cancers
- Vesicoureteral reflux
- Recurrent kidney infection

Signs and Symptoms

Signs and symptoms of chronic kidney disease develop over time if kidney damage progresses slowly. Signs and symptoms of kidney disease may include:

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Loss of appetite
- Fatigue and weakness
- Sleep problems
- Changes in how much you urinate.
- Decreased mental sharpness.
- Muscle twitches and cramps
- Swelling of feet and ankles
- Persistent itching
- Chest pain if fluid builds up around the lining of the heart.
- Shortness of breath if fluid builds up in the lungs.
- High blood pressure difficult to control.

Risk factors

- Diabetes
- High blood pressure
- Heart and blood vessel (cardiovascular) disease
- Being African American, Native American, or Asian-American
- Family history of kidney disease
- Abnormal kidney structure
- Smoking
- Obesity
- Older age

Complications

- Fluid retention
- Hyperkalemia
- Cardiovascular diseases
- Increased risk of bone fracture
- Anemia

Diagnostics test

- Medical history and physical exam
- Lab testing: Kidney function test such as creatinine and urea; Glomerular Filtration Rate (GFR) and urine tests
- Kidney ultrasound or CT Scan.
- Kidney biopsy

Treatment

Chronic kidney disease has no cure, but treatment can help control signs and symptoms, reduce complications, and slow the progress of the disease. Some of the treatment includes:

- **Treatment and control of cause of the kidney disease**
- **Lifestyle changes**
- **Exercise, weight control and balance nutrition**
- **Smoking cessation**
- **Avoid alcohol and dehydration.**
- **Medications:** address the cause of the CKD with high blood pressure medications, diabetes medication, etc.
- **Dialysis:** Used in end-stage renal disease (ESRD)
- **Kidney transplant:** Used in end-stage renal disease (ESRD)

Clinical Documentation and Coding Tips

Always document it to the highest level of specificity

- SOAP Notes documentation tips:
 - **Subjective** – Document the presence or absence of any current symptoms related to chronic kidney disease.
 - **Objective** – Document signs and symptoms and labs/test results related to chronic

kidney disease present at the time of the visit (such as ascites, ultrasound results, GFR results, etc.).

- **Assessment** – Document diagnostic statements that are compatible with the ICD-10 nomenclature, describing each final chronic kidney disease-related diagnosis to the highest specificity.
- **Plan** – Document and link all medications used to treat chronic kidney disease; detail any referrals, consultations, labs, or diagnostic testing requested.

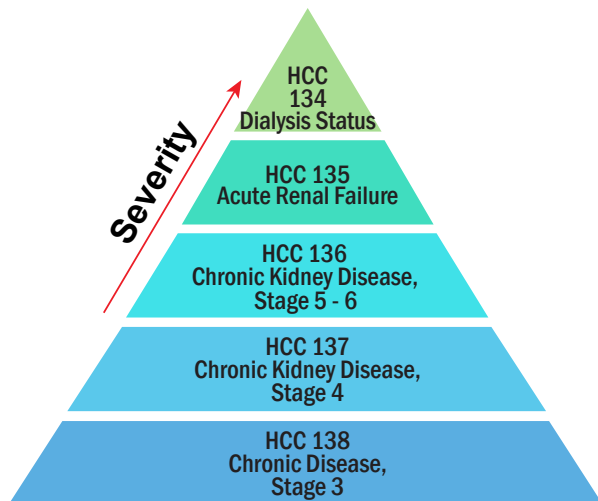
Medicare Hierarchal Condition Categories (HCC)

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.

Chronic kidney disease is a chronic condition that falls under HCCs 136, 137, and 138 with an average RAF Score 0.260. These HCCs categories belongs to the "**Renal disease Hierarchy or family**", which includes:

- HCC 134 - Dialysis Status (49 ICD-10CM codes, and an average RAF Score of 0.683)
- HCC 135 – Acute Renal Failure (5 ICD-10CM codes, and an average RAF Score of 0.683)
- HCC 136 – Chronic Kidney Disease, Stage 5 (5 ICD-10CM codes, and an average RAF Score of 0.260)

- HCC 137 – Chronic Kidney Disease, Severe (Stage 4) (1 ICD-10CM codes, and an average RAF Score of 0.260)
- HCC 138 – Chronic Kidney Disease, Moderate (Stage 3) (4 ICD-10CM codes, and an average RAF Score of 0.017)



These categories are ranked by severity within the hierarchy. Qualifying codes for HCC 134 take precedence over any condition within HCC 135, 136, 137 and 138 categories. Any qualifying codes for HCC 136 take precedence over any condition within HCC 137 and 138, but not in category 135. Hence, the number value of the HCC category is inversely proportional to the severity of the disease.

Coding Chronic Kidney Disease

There are fourteen (14) ICD - 10CM applicable to code chronic kidney disease linked an underlying condition such as Diabetes, hypertension, or hypertensive heart disease; these combination codes are used to classify two diagnoses, a diagnosis with a manifestation or a diagnosis with an associated complication and are used to code a condition to the highest specificity.

ICD-10 CODE DESCRIPTION

N17.X	Acute kidney failure 💡 Code Also associated underlying condition. 💡 See additional codes for TYPE of Acute kidney failure
N18.X	Chronic Kidney Disease 💡 Code First any associated:

- ✓ **diabetic chronic kidney disease (E08.22, E09.22, E10.22, E11.22, E13.22)**
- ✓ **hypertensive chronic kidney disease (I12.-, I13.-)**
💡 **Use additional code to identify kidney transplant status, if applicable (Z94.0)**

N18.30	Chronic kidney disease, stage 3 unspecified
N18.31	Chronic kidney disease, stage 3a
N18.32	Chronic kidney disease, stage 3b
N18.4	Chronic kidney disease, stage 4 (severe)
N18.5	Chronic kidney disease, stage 5
N18.6	Chronic kidney disease, stage 6 (ESRD) 💡 Use additional code to identify dialysis status (Z99.2)
Z99.2	Dependence on renal dialysis
I12.0	Hypertensive chronic kidney disease with stage 5 chronic kidney disease or end stage renal disease 💡 Includes: any condition in N18.X and N26.X due to hypertension MUST use additional code to specified TYPE of CKD (N18.X)
I12.9	Hypertensive chronic kidney disease with stage 1 through stage 4 chronic 💡 Includes: any condition in N18.X and N26.X due to hypertension MUST use additional code to specified TYPE of CKD (N18.X)
I13.X	Hypertensive heart and chronic kidney disease 💡 See additional codes for TYPE Hypertensive heart and chronic kidney disease with or without heart failure 💡 Includes: any condition in I11.X with any condition in I12.X MUST use additional code to specified TYPE of CKD (N18.X) and TYPE of heart failure (I50.X)

I13.10	Hypertensive heart and chronic kidney disease without heart failure, with stage 1 through stage 4 chronic kidney disease, or unspecified chronic kidney disease
I13.11	Hypertensive heart and chronic kidney disease without heart failure, with stage 5 chronic kidney disease, or end stage renal disease
I13.2	Hypertensive heart and chronic kidney disease with heart failure and with stage 5 chronic kidney disease, or end stage renal disease
E11.22	with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) 💡 use code to identify stage of CKD (N18.1-N18.6)

To properly code CKD

- Verify it is a current problem.
- Note the exact chronic kidney disease description and any associated underlying condition to select to correct diagnosis code.
- Follow the ICD-10 CM official coding guidelines and conventions. Select the correct ICD-10 CM code to the highest specificity.