

**Rheumatoid Arthritis (HCC 40)** – A type of chronic arthritis that occurs in joints on both sides of the body. Body parts such as both hands, wrists, and/or knees. It can also affect other parts like the skin, eyes, lungs, heart, blood, nerves, or kidneys.

## Signs and Symptoms

- Joint pain
- Swelling
- Stiffness
- Fatigue

## Risk Factors

- Sex- Women are more likely to be diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis.
- Age- Can occur at any age.
- Family History
- Smoking
- Environmental exposures
- Obesity

## Diagnostic Testing

- Physical exam on joints for swelling redness, and warmth
- Blood Tests
- Imaging tests

## Treatment

- Medications- NSAIDS, Steroids, Disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARD), biologic agents
- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Surgery such as synovectomy, Tendon repair, joint fusion, and total joint replacement

## Clinical Documentation and Coding Tips

SOAP Notes documentation tips:

- **Subjective** – Document the presence or absence of any current symptoms related to Rheumatoid Arthritis.
- **Objective** – Document signs and symptoms or conditions and labs/test results related to Rheumatoid Arthritis.
- **Assessment** – Document diagnostic statements that are compatible with the ICD-10 nomenclature to the highest specificity.
- **Plan** – Document and link all medications used to treat Rheumatoid Arthritis and or condition caused by it. 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.

Rheumatoid Arthritis is a condition that falls within the category "Rheumatoid Arthritis and Inflammatory Connective Tissue Disease" (HCC 40) with an average RAF Score of 0.371.

### Coding Rheumatoid Arthritis

ICD 10 CM	Description
<b>M05.0-M05.9</b>	Rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor
<b>M06.0-M06.9</b>	Other rheumatoid arthritis

### Always Remember

- Code the site, laterality, and type of Rheumatoid arthritis
- This condition is listed as a current condition not as "history of".
- Make sure there is support in the documentation.