

Ulcerative colitis is an inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) that causes inflammation and ulcers (sores) in the digestive tract.

Types of Ulcerative Colitis Disease:

Ulcerative (chronic) Pancolitis:

- without complications (K51.00)
- with rectal bleeding (K51.011)
- with intestinal obstruction (K51.012)
- with fistula (K51.013)
- with abscess (K51.014)
- with other complications (K51.018)
- with unspecified complications (K51.019)

Ulcerative (chronic) Proctitis:

- without complications (K51.20)
- with rectal bleeding (K51.211)
- with intestinal obstruction (K51.212)
- with fistula (K51.213)
- with abscess (K51.214)
- with other complications (K51.218)
- with unspecified complications (K51.219)

Ulcerative (chronic) Rectosigmoiditis:

- without complications (K51.30)
- with rectal bleeding (K51.311)
- with intestinal obstruction (K51.312)
- with fistula (K51.313)
- with abscess (K51.314)
- with other complications (K51.318)
- with unspecified complications (K51.319)

Inflammatory Polyps of Colon:

- without complications (K51.40)
- with rectal bleeding (K51.411)
- with intestinal obstruction (K51.412)

- with fistula (K51.413)
- with abscess (K51.414)
- with other complications (K51.418)
- with unspecified complications (K51.419)

Left-sided colitis:

- with unspecified complications (K51.50)
- with rectal bleeding (K51.511)
- with intestinal obstruction (K51.512)
- with fistula (K51.513)
- with abscess (K51.514)
- with other complications (K51.518)
- with unspecified complications (K51.519)

Other ulcerative colitis:

- with unspecified complications (K51.80)
- with rectal bleeding (K51.811)
- with intestinal obstruction (K51.812)
- with fistula (K51.813)
- with abscess (K51.814)
- with other complications (K51.818)
- with unspecified complications (K51.819)

Ulcerative colitis, unspecified:

- with unspecified complications (K51.80)
- with rectal bleeding (K51.811)
- with intestinal obstruction (K51.812)
- with fistula (K51.813)
- with abscess (K51.814)
- with other complications (K51.818)
- with unspecified complications (K51.819)

Signs and Symptoms

Ulcerative colitis symptoms can vary, depending on the severity of inflammation and where it occurs.

Signs and symptoms may include:

- Diarrhea, often with blood or pus.
- Abdominal pain and cramping.
- Rectal pain.
- Rectal bleeding.
- Inability to defecate despite the urgency.
- Weight loss
- Fatigue.
- Fever.

Risk factors

Ulcerative colitis affects about the same number of women and men. Risk factors may include:

- Age.
- Ethnicity.
- Family history

Complications

Complications of ulcerative colitis may include:

- Severe bleeding.
- A hole in the colon.
- Severe dehydration.
- Bone loss.
- Inflammation of your skin, joints, and eyes.
- Colon cancer.

Diagnostics Tools

Endoscopic procedures with tissue biopsy are the only way to definitively diagnose ulcerative colitis. To help confirm a diagnosis of ulcerative colitis, you may have one or more of the following tests and procedures:

Lab Tests:

- Stool studies.
- Blood tests.

Endoscopic procedures:

- Colonoscopy.
- Flexible sigmoidoscopy.

Imaging procedures

- X-ray.
- CT scan.

- Computerized tomography enterography.
- magnetic resonance enterography.

Treatment

Ulcerative colitis treatment usually involves either drug therapy or surgery.

Anti-inflammatory drugs:

- 5-aminosalicylates.
- Corticosteroids.

Immune system suppressors:

- Azathioprine and Mercaptopurine.
- Cyclosporine.
- Tofacitinib.

Biologics:

- Infliximab, Adalimumab and Golimumab.
- Vedolizumab.
- Ustekinumab.

Other medication:

- Anti-diarrheal medications.
- Pain relievers.
- Antispasmodics.
- Iron supplements.

Clinical Documentation and Coding Tips

Always document it to the highest level of specificity

- SOAP Notes documentation tips:
 - **Subjective** – In the subjective section of the medical record, document any current complaints that are directly related to current or Ulcerative Colitis that may be in remission.
 - **Objective** – The objective section should document any abnormal lab or test findings. Document results of diagnostic testing.
 - **Assessment** – The Ulcerative Colitis diagnosis should be spelled out in full and described to the highest level of specificity.
 - **Plan** – Document a clear and concise treatment plan, including orders for diagnostic testing. Clearly link the diagnosis to medications being used to treat the

condition. Document to whom/where referrals or consultation requests are made. Include the date of the patient's next appointment.

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 the 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.

Ulcerative Colitis is a condition that falls within the category **"Intestinal Obstruction/Perforation and Inflammatory Bowel Disease "** (HCC 33 and 35) with an average RAF Score of 0.258 and 0.275 respectively

Coding Ulcerative Colitis

There are Forty-Nine (49) ICD - 10CM codes applicable for coding Ulcerative Colitis.

ICD-10 Code	Code description
K51.00	Ulcerative (chronic) pancolitis without complications
K51.011	Ulcerative (chronic) pancolitis with rectal bleeding
K51.012	Ulcerative (chronic) pancolitis with intestinal obstruction
K51.013	Ulcerative (chronic) pancolitis with fistula
K51.014	Ulcerative (chronic) pancolitis with abscess

K51.018	Ulcerative (chronic) pancolitis with other complications
K51.019	Ulcerative (chronic) pancolitis with unspecified complications
K51.20	Ulcerative (chronic) proctitis without complications
K51.211	Ulcerative (chronic) proctitis with rectal bleeding
K51.212	Ulcerative (chronic) proctitis with intestinal obstruction
K51.213	Ulcerative (chronic) proctitis with fistula
K51.214	Ulcerative (chronic) proctitis with abscess
K51.218	Ulcerative (chronic) proctitis with other complications
K51.219	Ulcerative (chronic) proctitis with unspecified complications
K51.30	Ulcerative (chronic) rectosigmoiditis without complications
K51.311	Ulcerative (chronic) rectosigmoiditis with rectal bleeding
K51.312	Ulcerative (chronic) rectosigmoiditis with intestinal obstruction
K51.313	Ulcerative (chronic) rectosigmoiditis with fistula
K51.314	Ulcerative (chronic) rectosigmoiditis with abscess
K51.318	Ulcerative (chronic) rectosigmoiditis with other complications
K51.319	Ulcerative (chronic) rectosigmoiditis with unspecified complications
K51.40	Inflammatory polyps of the colon without complications
K51.411	Inflammatory polyps of colon with rectal bleeding
K51.412	Inflammatory polyps of colon with intestinal obstruction
K51.413	Inflammatory polyps of colon with fistula
K51.414	Inflammatory polyps of colon with abscess

K51.418	Inflammatory polyps of colon with other complications
K51.419	Inflammatory polyps of colon with unspecified complications
K51.50	Left-sided colitis without complications
K51.511	Left-sided colitis with rectal bleeding
K51.512	Left-sided colitis with intestinal obstruction
K51.513	Left-sided colitis with fistula
K51.514	Left-sided colitis with abscess
K51.518	Left-sided colitis with other complications
K51.519	Left-sided colitis with unspecified complications
K51.80	Other ulcerative colitis without complications
K51.811	Other ulcerative colitis with rectal bleeding
K51.812	Other ulcerative colitis with intestinal obstruction
K51.813	Other ulcerative colitis with fistula
K51.814	Other ulcerative colitis with abscess
K51.818	Other ulcerative colitis with other complication
K51.819	Other ulcerative colitis with unspecified complications
K51.90	Ulcerative colitis, unspecified, without complications
K51.911	Ulcerative colitis, unspecified with rectal bleeding
K51.912	Ulcerative colitis, unspecified with intestinal obstruction
K51.913	Ulcerative colitis, unspecified with fistula
K51.914	Ulcerative colitis, unspecified with abscess
K51.918	Ulcerative colitis, unspecified with other complication
K51.919	Ulcerative colitis, unspecified with unspecified complications

Always Remember

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