

2026 HCC Coding and Documentation Tips



Effective January 2026

Always make sure that you are using the current year ICD-10 codes

Validated HCC Coding requires documenting:

- Diagnosis
- Status of Condition
- Plan of Action

For example:

- "CHF, stable, continue current meds" (document current medication member is taking for condition)
- "Diabetic CKD III controlled, continue current meds, follow-up appointment and labs"

Once a Year, Document Chronic Active Conditions *commonly not documented*

COAST – Do NOT use the words "**HISTORY OF**" if patient has an active disease currently being treated.

Chronic Dx: CHF, COPD, DM, Residual effects of Stroke/CVA: I69 ○

Ostomy: Colostomy: Z93.3 / Cystostomy: Z93.50 / Ileostomy: Z93.2 / Gastrostomy: Z93.1

Amputations: Including lower limbs (foot, ankle, below knee, above knee): Z89.-

Seizures/Epilepsy: G40.90 ○ / Spinal Disorders: Paraplegia: G82.20 / Quadriplegia: G82.50

Transplants: Stem cell, liver, heart, lung: Z94 ○

○ = additional digit(s) required

Cardiovascular

I11.0 Hypertensive heart disease with heart failure
I21.9 MI (acute) NOS, < 4 weeks old
I25.2 Old myocardial infarction, > 4 weeks old
I27.2 Pulmonary Hypertension
I27.840 Fontan-associated liver disease (FALD) (Effective 10/1/2025)
I27.841 Fontan-associated lymphatic dysfunction (Effective 10/1/2025)
I27.849 Fontan-related circulation, Unspecified (Effective 10/1/2025)
I42.9 Cardiomyopathy
I44.2 Atrioventricular Block, Complete

I47.20 Ventricular Tachycardia (VT), Unspecified
I48.91 Atrial Fibrillation
I49.5 Sick Sinus Syndrome (Sinoatrial dysfunction)
I50.2 ○ Systolic CHF
I50.3 ○ Diastolic CHF
I50.4 ○ Acute on Chronic CHF
I50.84 End stage CHF
Z79.01 Long term Anticoagulation

Chronic Kidney Disease – Check GFR and Microalbuminuria at least twice a year.

N18.1 CKD I GFR > 90 with Microalbumin
N18.2 CKD II GFR 60-89 with Microalbumin
N18.30 CKD III Unspecified
N18.31 CKD III a GFR 45-59

N18.32 CKD III b GFR 30-44
N18.4 CKD IV GFR 15-29
N18.5 CKD V GFR <15
N18.6 ESRD on Dialysis

Circulatory/Vascular

I26.95 Cement embolism of pulmonary artery without acute cor pulmonale
I26.96 Fat embolism of pulmonary artery without acute cor pulmonale
I70.22 ○ Atherosclerosis of native arteries of extremities with rest pain
I70.239 Atherosclerosis of native arteries of right leg with ulceration of Unspecified site

I70.249 ○ Atherosclerosis of native arteries of left leg with ulceration of Unspecified site
I82.40 ○ Acute DVT lower extremities, Unspecified vein
I82.50 ○ Chronic DVT (on long term anticoagulation)
I83.0 ○ Venous Stasis Ulcer

Diabetes with Manifestations – Many codes are now combination codes. Please be sure to review your ICD-10 book to determine if a secondary code is required.

E11.1 Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (DMII) without Complications In Remission (Effective 10/1/2025)
E11.2 DMII with Renal Manifestations
E11.22 + N18., N18.3 DMII with CKD
E11.3 ○ DMII with Ophthalmic Complications
E11.31 ○ to E11.35 ○ DMII with Retinopathy
E11.36 Diabetic Cataracts
E11.4 ○ DMII with Neurological Manifestations
E11.40 DMII Diabetic Neuropathy
E11.42 DMII Diabetic Polyneuropathy
E11.5 ○ DMII with Circulatory Disorders

E11.51 DMII w/Peripheral Angiopathy without gangrene
E11.6 ○ DMII with Other Specified Complication
E11.62 ○ DMII with Diabetic Ulcer
E11.649 DMII with Hypoglycemia
E11.65 DMII with Hyperglycemia
E11.69 DMII with Other Specified Complication*
*Must document causal relationship with complication
R73.03 Pre-Diabetes
Z79.4 Long-term (Current) use of Insulin
Z79.85 Long-term (Current) use of injectable non-insulin antidiabetic drugs

Dermatology

C43.○ Malignant Melanoma
D03.○ Melanoma in Situ
D69.2 Senile Purpura
D86.3 Sarcoidosis of skin
L10.0 Pemphigus vulgaris
L89.9 Pressure Ulcer - Document site location and stage (II, III, IV)

L97.- Non-Pressure Chronic Ulcer of Foot/Leg (Effective 10/1/2025)
L98.4 ○○ Non-Pressure Chronic Ulcer of Other Body Parts (Effective 10/1/2025)
L98.A Non-Pressure Chronic Ulcer of Hand/Arm (Effective 10/1/2025)
Z85.820 H/O Malignant Melanoma

Gastroenterology

B18.2 Chronic Viral Hepatitis C
K56.41 Fecal Impactions
K70.10 Alcoholic hepatitis without ascites
K70.30 Alcoholic Cirrhosis
K71.3 Toxic liver disease with chronic persistent hepatitis

K71.50 Toxic liver disease with chronic active hepatitis without ascites
K71.7 Toxic liver disease with fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver
K72.00 End Stage Liver Disease
K73.9 Chronic Hepatitis, Unspecified

Hematology

D45 Polycythemia Vera
D47.3 Thrombocythemia
D68.00 Von Willebrand disease, Unspecified
D68.1 Hereditary factor XI deficiency

D69.3 Immune Thrombocytopenic Purpura (ITP)
D70.4 Cyclic Neutropenia
D71.1 Leukocyte Adhesion Deficiency (Effective 10/1/2025)
D71.9 Functional Disorders of Polymorphonuclear Neutrophils, Unspecified (Effective 10/1/2025)

Morbid Obesity

E66.01 Morbid Obesity, due to excess calories (BMI ≥ 40)
E66.2 Morbid (severe) obesity with alveolar hypoventilation
E66.811 Obesity, class 1
E66.812 Obesity, class 2

*Code also BMI

E66.813 Obesity, class 3
Z68.3 BMI 35 – 39.99 w/ comorbid conditions (must document causal relationship) Diabetes, HTN, Hyperlipidemia, CHF, CAD, DJD of knee/hip, Sleep apnea
Z68.4 BMI 40 or greater

Musculoskeletal

M05.A Abnormal Rheumatoid Factor and Anti-Citrullinated Protein Antibody with Rheumatoid Arthritis (Effective 10/1/2025)
M06.4 Inflammatory polyarthropathy

M06.9 Rheumatoid arthritis, Unspecified
M12.08 Chronic postrheumatic arthropathy
M46.0 Inflammatory spondylopathies
T84.84XA Chronic pain in prosthetic joint (initial encounter)

Neurology

- Do not code acute CVA (usually ER or INPT only).

G20.A Parkinson's Disease without dyskinesia
G20.B Parkinson's Disease with dyskinesia
G20.C Parkinsonism, Unspecified
G35.A Relapsing-remitting Multiple Sclerosis (Effective 10/1/2025)
G35.B Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis (Effective 10/1/2025)
G35.C Secondary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis (Effective 10/1/2025)
G35.D Multiple Sclerosis, Unspecified (Effective 10/1/2025)
G40.901 Epilepsy, Unspecified, not intractable with status epilepticus

G40.909 Epilepsy, Unspecified, not intractable without status epilepticus
I69.0 Late Effect of CVA
I69.33 Monoplegia Upper Limb
I69.34 Monoplegia Lower Limb
I69.35 Hemiplegia/Hemiparesis
I69.96 Other Paralytic Syndrome
286.73 History of CVA - use when there are no late effects of the CVA

Oncology

- Document cancer as ACTIVE if: undergoing tx (including hormones like Tamoxifen/Lupron), waiting for tx, watchful waiting, refuses tx: **C00.0** to **D48.0**

C50.A Malignant Inflammatory Neoplasm of Breast (Effective 10/1/2025)
C77.0 to C80.0 Secondary Malignant Neoplasm (Metastases) - Document by location of metastasis
C83.0 to C88.0 Lymphoma
C81.9A Hodgkin lymphoma, Unspecified, In Remission
C85.9A Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, Unspecified, In Remission
C91.0 to C95.10 Do not code LEUKEMIA as "history of" rather as "IN REMISSION"

D3A.0 Benign neoplasms
Z85.00 - Z85.9 Use "HISTORY OF" codes for cancers that are cured/show no evidence of disease

Cancer Related Conditions:

I31.31 Malignant pericardial effusion in diseases classified elsewhere
J91.0 Malignant pleural effusion

Ophthalmology

H34.810 Central Retinal Vein Occlusion
H34.830 Tribuary (branch) retinal vein occlusion

H35.320 Exudative Macular Degeneration
H43.10 Vitreous Hemorrhage

Psychiatric

- Document chronic lifetime conditions.

F20.0 Schizophrenia

F31.0 Bipolar

• **Major Depression** - Do NOT write "depression". Instead, document as "major depression" with a specific descriptor: mild, moderate, severe, partial or full remission.

F32.0 Single Episode
F32.1 Major Depressive Disorder, Moderate
F32.2 Major Depressive Disorder, Severe without Psychotic Features
F32.3 Major Depressive Disorder, Severe with Psychotic Features

F33.0 Recurrent, lifetime
F33.1 Major Depressive Disorder, Moderate
F33.2 Major Depressive Disorder, Severe without Psychotic Features
F33.3 Major Depressive Disorder, Severe with Psychotic Features

• **Drug Dependence** - Code for patients on chronic meds for treatment with maladaptive behavior. Must document at least 2 maladaptive behaviors to code "dependence," including desire, or unsuccessful effort to cut down, etc. Tolerance and withdrawal are to be used as criteria only if the patient is non-compliant or if they have chronic opiate use.

F10.20 Alcoholic Dependence, Uncomplicated
F10.21 Alcoholic Dependence, In Remission
F10.1 Alcohol Abuse
F11.1 Opioid Abuse
F11.2 Opioid Dependence

F12.2 Cannabis Dependence
F12.9 Cannabis Use
F13.2 Benzodiazepines
F14.1 Cocaine Abuse
F14.2 Cocaine Dependence
Z79.891 Chronic Opiate Use

• **Dementia** - Check MMSE/SLUMS.

F03.918 Dementia, Unspecified severity, with other behavioral disturbance
F03.92 Unspecified Dementia, Unspecified severity with **Psychotic Disturbance**
F03.93 Unspecified Dementia, Unspecified severity with **Mood Disturbance**
F03.94 Unspecified Dementia, Unspecified severity with **Anxiety**
G30.9 + F02.80 Dementia in Alzheimer's

F01 Vascular Dementia
F02.80 Dementia in other diseases without behavioral disturbance
F02.818 Dementia in other diseases, Unspecified severity, with other behavioral disturbance
F03.A Unspecified **Mild** Dementia
F03.B Unspecified **Moderate** Dementia
F03.C Unspecified **Severe** Dementia
F03.90 Dementia without behavioral disturbance (Unspecified)
F03.90 + F05 Dementia with Psychosis (delusions, hallucinations)

F50.20 Bulimia nervosa
F50.810 Binge Eating Disorder

• **Personality Disorders**

F50.00 Anorexia nervosa, Unspecified
F50.010 Anorexia nervosa, restricting type
F50.020 Anorexia nervosa, binge eating/purging type

Respiratory

- Document to the highest specificity and include type of asthma or bronchitis.

J41.0 Simple Chronic Bronchitis (smokers cough)
J43.9 Emphysema
J44.89 Other Specified Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
J44.9 COPD
J45.50 Severe persistent asthma, Uncomplicated
J47.9 Bronchiectasis, Unspecified

J82.81 Chronic eosinophilic pneumonia
J84.10 Post inflammatory Pulmonary Fibrosis (interstitial scarring)
J96.10 Chronic Respiratory Failure - consider in COPD if Pulse Ox is <88% on room air
Z99.81 Long Term Oxygen Use - be sure to document chronic pulmonary condition

Urology

C61 Malignant Neoplasm of Prostate
C67.9 Malignant Neoplasm of Bladder, Unspecified

E72.53 Primary Hyperoxaluria (Effective 10/1/2025)
E72.54 Secondary Hyperoxaluria (Effective 10/1/2025)