

# Home Health ICD-9/ICD-10 Alert

# ICD-10: Look for Familiar Guidelines for ICD-10 Hypertension Coding

# You'll still need physician documentation for hypertensive heart disease.

You'll be happy to know that hypertension coding in ICD-10 is pretty similar to what you're used to in ICD-9. Brush up on the basics for coding this condition and you'll be well on your way to mastering the steps in the new code set.

#### Primary/Essential Hypertension: 401.xx/I10

To code for primary hypertension in ICD-9, you'll first need to determine whether the hypertension is malignant, benign, or unspecified.

Most hypertension is considered primary or essential hypertension, and in ICD-9, it's coded with a 401.x (Essential hypertension) category code.

The fourth digit for 401.x codes indicates whether the hypertension is malignant, benign, or unspecified:

- 401.0 (Essential hypertension, malignant);
- 401.1 (Essential hypertension, benign); or
- 401.9 (Essential hypertension, unspecified).

In ICD-10, you no longer need to specify whether primary hypertension is malignant, benign, or unspecified, says coding expert **Brandi Whitemyer**, **RN**, **COS-C**, **HCS-D**, **HCS-O**, AHIMA Approved ICD-10 Trainer/Ambassador in Weslaco, Texas. As a result, the hypertension table, found in the Alphabetic Index in ICD-9-CM isn't included in ICD-10. You'll report all primary hypertension with the same code: I10 (Essential [primary] hypertension).

#### **Hypertension Coding by Organ Involvement**

Primary hypertension can also be categorized according to end organ involvement. When hypertension causes heart disease, chronic kidney disease, or both heart and chronic kidney disease, both ICD-9 and ICD-10 refer you to separate code categories.

# Hypertensive Heart Disease 402.xx/I11

When you are selecting a diagnosis code for a patient diagnosed with hypertensive heart disease in ICD-9, you look to the 402.xx (Hypertensive heart disease) category.

These codes are further specified with a fourth digit to indicate whether the hypertension is malignant, benign, or unspecified, and a fifth digit that indicates whether the patient also has a heart failure diagnosis.

In ICD-10, your code selection for patients with hypertensive heart disease is streamlined. You have two codes from which to choose:

- I11.0 (Hypertensive heart disease with heart failure) or
- I11.9 (Hypertensive heart disease without heart failure).

**Additional code:** For those patients who have a diagnosis that includes heart failure, ICD-9 and ICD-10 ask you to also list a code to specify the type of heart failure. In ICD-9, look to the 428.0-428.43 range. For ICD-10, you'll need to list a code from the I50.- category.



One thing that's a little confusing about the hypertensive heart disease ICD-10 codes is that "0" in the fifth digit on the ICD-9 code means that the patient does not have heart failure. But in ICD-10 the "0" on the end of the code means they do have heart failure, says Lisa Selman-Holman, JD, BSN, RN, COS-C, HCS-D, HCS-O, AHIMA Approved ICD-10-CM Trainer/Ambassador of Selman-Holman & Associates, LLC, CoDR Coding Done Right and Code Pro University in Denton, Texas.

**Caution**: "Don't get caught by habit and assume the other digits/characters are going to match up between ICD-9 and ICD-10 like they do with some codes," Selman-Holman warns

**Cause and effect:** You must have documentation to support a causal relationship between the patient's hypertension and his heart disease in order to list a 402.xx or I11.- code, Whitemyer says. If there is no documentation that the two conditions are linked, you must report them separately.

The relationship, documented by the physician, may be implied or stated, Selman-Holman says. An example of implied, is "hypertensive heart disease." An example of stated is "heart failure due to hypertension."

#### Hypertensive Chronic Kidney Disease 403.xx/ I12.-

When you are selecting a diagnosis code for a patient diagnosed with hypertensive chronic kidney disease in ICD-9, you look to the 403.xx (Hypertensive chronic kidney disease) category. These codes are further specified with a fourth digit to indicate whether the hypertension is malignant, benign, or unspecified, and a fifth digit that indicates the stage of chronic kidney disease.

Coding for hypertensive chronic kidney disease in ICD-10 is simplified, with two codes to choose from based on the stage of the chronic kidney disease:

- I12.0 (Hypertensive chronic kidney disease with stage 5 chronic kidney disease or end stage renal disease) or
- I12.9 (Hypertensive chronic kidney disease with stage 1 through stage 4 chronic kidney disease, or unspecified chronic kidney disease).

**Additional code:** When you report a code from the 403.xx or I12.- categories, you'll need to list an additional code to indicate the stage of chronic kidney disease. For ICD-9, that's a 585.x (Chronic kidney disease) code. In ICD-10, list a code from the N18.- (Chronic kidney disease) category.

Again, just keep in mind that "0" on the end of the code in ICD-10 means stage 5 or end stage renal disease is present, but in ICD-9 "0" on the end of the code means stage 1-4 or unspecified chronic kidney disease stage, Selman Holman says. And remember that the choice that includes unspecified ends with fourth digit "9."

**Cause and effect:** Both ICD-9 and ICD-10 assume a causal relationship between hypertension and chronic kidney disease, Whitemyer says. So, when your patient has both diagnoses, it's appropriate to code for them with a code from the 403.xx or I12.- category.

# Hypertensive Heart and Chronic Kidney Disease 404.xx/ I13.-

When you are selecting a diagnosis code for a patient diagnosed with both chronic kidney disease and hypertensive heart disease in ICD-9, you'll look to the 404.xx (Hypertensive heart and chronic kidney disease) category. These codes are further specified with a fourth digit to indicate whether the hypertension is malignant, benign, or unspecified, and a fifth digit that indicates whether or not the patient has heart failure and the stage of chronic kidney disease.

You'll choose from four I13.- (Hypertensive heart and chronic kidney disease) codes to report hypertensive heart and chronic kidney disease in ICD-10.

**Additional code:** For those patients who have a diagnosis that includes heart failure, ICD-9 asks you to also list a code from the 428.0-428.43 range to specify the type of heart failure. You'll also need to list a code from the 585.x (Chronic



kidney disease) category to indicate the stage of chronic kidney disease.

In ICD-10, you'll list a code from the I50.- category to identify the type of heart failure and the N18.- (Chronic kidney disease) category to indicate the stage of CKD. If your patient also has acute renal failure, you will also need to list the appropriate code from the N17.- (Acute kidney failure) category.

**Cause and effect:** Both ICD-9 and ICD-10 assume a causal relationship between hypertension and chronic kidney disease, but not between heart disease and hypertension. So, in order to list a hypertensive heart and chronic kidney disease code, you must have documentation that links the hypertension and the heart disease.