



Coding and Documentation Tips for Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is abnormalities of kidney structure or function, affecting health, present for more than three months. The criteria for CKD are a decreased glomerular filtration rate, GFR < 60 ml/min/1.73m² for > 3 months or one or more markers of kidney damage present for > 3 months. ¹

Stage	Severity	GFR value*	ICD-10-CM
Stage I	Normal or mildly elevated GFR	GFR ≥ 90 ml/min/1.73 m ² with kidney damage	N18.1
Stage II	Mild	GFR 60–89 ml/min/1.73 m ² with kidney damage	N18.2
Stage III	Unspecified	CKD Stage 3 Unspecified (see Stage III a or Stage III b below)	N18.30
Stage III a	Mild to Moderate	GFR 45–59 ml/min/1.73 m ²	N18.31
Stage III b	Moderate to Severe	GFR 30–44 ml/min/1.73 m ²	N18.32
Stage IV	Severe	GFR 15–29 ml/min/1.73 m ²	N18.4
Stage V	Kidney failure	GFR < 15 ml/min 1.73 m ²	N18.5
ESRD	End stage renal disease	Requiring chronic dialysis/kidney transplant	N18.6
CKD unsp.	Unspecified	Chronic kidney disease, unspecified	N18.9
Dialysis status	Stage V or ESRD requiring dialysis	Dependence on renal dialysis	Z99.2
		Patient's noncompliance with renal dialysis	Z91.15

*Note: Always use the clinical indicators (GFR values above) to identify and document the **stage** of the CKD.

Chronic Kidney Disease Documentation Tips:

- **CKD and diabetes:** ICD-10 CM assumes a relationship when a patient has both chronic kidney disease and diabetes. Both conditions, chronic kidney disease including the stage and diabetes, must be documented.
- **CKD and hypertension:** ICD-10 CM assumes a relationship when a patient has both chronic kidney disease and hypertension (cause and effect). Both conditions, chronic kidney disease and hypertension, must be documented.

Coding Example:

An 80-year-old female patient comes in for her annual wellness exam. During that visit, the provider documents “diabetic chronic kidney disease, stage IV, refer to nephrology.”

E11.22 Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic chronic kidney disease

N18.4 Chronic Kidney disease, stage 4 (severe)

¹ <https://www.kidney.org/professionals/explore-your-knowledge/what-is-the-criteria-for-ckd>