



Clinical Champion Update

Date: 6/1/23

Subject: Hypertension

Coding for Hypertension

Coding is important in our documentation because it shows us at a glance, the severity of illness of our patients.

When our patients have elevated blood pressure, we should also document and code appropriately to reflect the severity of their hypertension. This can also affect payment under value-based payment models.

Here are some reminders:

➤ **ELEVATED BLOOD PRESSURE WITHOUT A DIAGNOSIS OF HYPERTENSION - R03.0**

An established patient without a formal diagnosis of hypertension, and BP is elevated on the first reading and drops after reevaluation but still slightly above normal limits.

➤ **HYPERTENSION -I10**

Even if the hypertension is not the focus of the current encounter, but relevant to the other conditions, it should be listed in the diagnosis. An example would be management of medications for diabetes, and the patient's BMI is 38 and current smoker, even if their blood pressure is at goal. Documentation also includes your advice on lifestyle modifications.

➤ **RENOVASCULAR HYPERTENSION - I15.0**

If your patient presents with testing for evaluation of atherosclerosis of the renal artery along with onset of hypertension. Based on the test results, the diagnosis would be:

➤ **Atherosclerosis of renal artery - 170.1 RAF score 0.0288**

➤ **HYPERTENSIVE EMERGENCY - I16.1**

Your patient presents ill-appearing, brought in by daughter, confused, BP 260/170 mmHg, nauseated and with a pounding headache. It was noted that he may not have taken his medications for 4 days. You send the patient to the ED by ambulance. You would code:

➤ **Hypertensive emergency - I16.1**

Please bill a 99215 since you are sending the patient to the ED

➤ **HYPERTENSIVE CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE WITH STAGE 1 THROUGH 4 CKD OR UNSPECIFIED CKD - I12.9**

You would code:

➤ **I12.9**

- **CKD 3**- Only CKD 3 has RAF weight 0.069
- **HYPERTENSIVE HEART AND CHRONIC KIDNEY DIEASE WITH HEART FAILURE AND STAGE 1-4 CKD - I13.0** RAF weight 0.331

Source: Family Practice Management March 2020

Thanks,
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Hypertension Clinical Champions