

Guide to Congestive Heart Failure

It is important to accurately document and code heart failure when other chronic conditions are present.

Documentation

Heart failure should be documented as:

- ▶ Left ventricular, right ventricular or biventricular
- ▶ Systolic, diastolic or combined
- ▶ Acute, chronic or acute-on-chronic

The true health status of a patient will be accurately reflected when all chronic conditions are documented and coded specifically. CMS assigns extra risk value when heart failure is present with other chronic conditions such as:

- ▶ Diabetes
- ▶ Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- ▶ Chronic kidney disease (CKD)
- ▶ Arrhythmias

Coding Tips

- ▶ Use combination codes from I11 and I13, when appropriate, to link heart failure with hypertension or heart failure with CKD (including stage).
- ▶ The ICD-10 code set assumes that heart failure is related to hypertension unless the physician documents otherwise.

Heart Failure Codes	
Description	Code
Left ventricular failure, unspecified	I50.1
Unspecified systolic (congestive) heart failure	I50.20
Acute systolic (congestive) heart failure	I50.21
Chronic systolic (congestive) heart failure	I50.22
Acute on chronic systolic (congestive) heart failure	I50.23
Unspecified diastolic (congestive) heart failure	I50.30
Acute diastolic (congestive) heart failure	I50.31
Chronic diastolic (congestive) heart failure	I50.32
Acute on chronic diastolic (congestive) heart failure	I50.33
Unspecified combined systolic (congestive) and diastolic (congestive) heart failure	I50.40
Acute combined systolic (congestive) and diastolic (congestive) heart failure	I50.41
Chronic combined systolic (congestive) and diastolic (congestive) heart failure	I50.42
Acute on chronic combined systolic (congestive) and diastolic (congestive) heart failure	I50.43
End stage heart failure	I50.84
Heart failure, unspecified	I50.9

Combination Codes	
Description	Code
I11: Hypertensive heart disease (heart conditions classified to I50.- or I51.4-I51.7, I51.89 are assigned to a code from category I11)	
Hypertensive heart disease with heart failure	I11.0
Hypertensive heart disease without heart failure	I11.9
I12: Hypertensive chronic kidney disease	
Hypertensive chronic kidney disease with stage 5 CKD or end stage renal disease	I12.0
Hypertensive chronic kidney disease with stage 1-4 CKD, or unspecified CKD	I12.9
I13: Hypertensive heart and chronic kidney disease	
Hypertensive heart and CKD with heart failure and stage 1-4 CKD, or unspecified CKD	I13.0
Hypertensive heart and CKD with heart failure and with stage 5 CKD, or end stage renal disease	I13.2
Hypertensive heart and CKD without heart failure, with stage 1-4 CKD, or unspecified CKD	I13.10
Hypertensive heart and CKD without heart failure, with stage 5 CKD, or end stage renal disease	I13.11

Note: Coding Guidelines instruct on using an additional code to identify the type of heart failure and stage of CKD when combination codes are selected.

For additional information, go to: AlabamaBlue.com/Providers/CodingCorner



BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association