

Congestive Heart Failure

It is important to accurately document and code congestive heart failure (CHF).

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). Review the coding guides related to hypertensive heart disease and CKD on Coding Corner.
- ▶ The ICD-10 code set assumes that heart failure is related to hypertension unless the physician documents otherwise.

Use the following list of specific heart failure codes:

Heart Failure Codes	
Description	Code
Pulmonary hypertension,unspecified	I27.20
Pulmonary hypertension due to left heart disease	I27.22
Pulmonary hypertension due to lung disease and hypoxia	I27.23
Cor pulmonale (Chronic)	I27.81
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

Heart Failure Codes	
Description	Code
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
Acute right heart failure	I50.811
Acute on chronic right heart failure	I50.813

Additional codes to consider for heart failure:

- ▶ **Code Z95.811** for the presence of heart assist device
- ▶ **Code Z95.812** for the presence of fully implantable artificial heart



For additional information, go to:

AlabamaBlue.com/Providers/CodingCorner

Blue Advantage® PPO is provided by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama, an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

ICD-10 is the 10th revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD), a medical classification list by the World Health Organization (WHO).