

Hypertension (HTN) documentation

To capture the full disease burden of a patient’s cardiac condition, follow the documentation guidelines below, as applicable.

According to ICD10 coding guidelines, there’s a **presumed causal relationship** between hypertension with heart disease, hypertension with chronic kidney disease and hypertension with cerebrovascular disease, unless otherwise specified.

Do document: HTN annually with specificity	Do document: Specificity with causal diagnoses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ex: Essential hypertension vs hypertensive heart disease vs secondary hypertension.</i> • Update old terms such as “benign hypertension.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ex: Hypertensive heart disease or hypertension due to CKD stage IV.</i> • Include staging for heart failure or CKD with combined diagnoses.
Do document: Related conditions with HTN	Do document: Tobacco status, use, abuse, dependence, exposure or history of
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronic kidney disease (CKD) stage IV with HTN. • Document if commonly assumed relationship conditions are not related. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Ex: If CKD is d/t alternative cause, the casual relationship to HTN is no longer is assumed.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ex: Nicotine dependence, cigarettes, unspecified personal history of nicotine dependence.</i>
Do document: Cardiogenic shock status as appropriate	Don’t: Change diagnosis to ‘history of’ if heart failure is controlled but still receiving active treatment. The provider must link the diagnosis and the medication for proper support. Example: if a patient has hypertension that’s being managed and controlled with medication, it should be reported as an active condition and not a history of.

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Basics About COPD*. <https://cdc.gov/copd/basics-about.html>. June 9, 2021.
2. National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. *What is COPD?* <https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/copd>. Mar 24, 2022.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Most Recent Asthma State or Territory Data*. https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/most_recent_data_states.htm. Dec 13, 2022.

4. Prescott, L, Manz, J., Newhouser, K. (2021). *2021 ACDIS Outpatient Pocket Guide The essential CDI Resource for Outpatient Professionals* (pp. 312-313).: HCPPro, a Simplify Compliance Brand.