

# Hypertension

Documentation and coding: Individual & Family Plans

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**For coding education questions**, email [CignaHealthcareHCPEducation@CignaHealthcare.com](mailto:CignaHealthcareHCPEducation@CignaHealthcare.com).

It's important to accurately document and code diagnoses when submitting claims for your patients with Cigna Healthcare®-administered coverage. This helps ensure your diagnosis and coding practices comply with all applicable legal requirements,<sup>1</sup> while enabling us to provide our customers with the benefits and resources they need. For additional information and resources, visit the Cigna Healthcare Individual & Family Plans page at [CignaforHCP.com/IFP](http://CignaforHCP.com/IFP).

*The information that follows is designed to provide guidance for the documentation and coding of claims for your patients with hypertension. It is not meant to replace your judgment when caring for your patients.*

## Definition and diagnostic criteria<sup>2</sup>

The following staging system for hypertension (HTN) was suggested by the American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association (ACC/AHA).

Stage	Description
Normal	Less than 120/80 mm Hg
Elevated	Systolic between 120 and 129, and diastolic less than 80
Stage 1	Systolic between 130 and 139, or diastolic between 80 and 89
Stage 2	Systolic at least 140, or diastolic at least 90 mm Hg
Normal	Less than 120/80 mm Hg

## Documentation and coding

- Document HTN and any associated manifestations with a combination code. e.g., ICD-10-CM<sup>3</sup> codes I11 (hypertensive heart disease with heart failure), I12 (hypertensive chronic kidney disease [CKD]), and I13 (hypertensive heart and CKD).
- Hypertension with heart conditions classified to I50.- Heart failure, I51.4, Myocarditis, unspecified, I51.89, Other ill-defined heart diseases, and I51.9, heart disease, unspecified, is assigned to a code from category I11, Hypertensive heart disease. Use additional code(s) from category I50, Heart failure, or I51, Complications and ill-defined descriptions of heart disease, to identify the heart condition.
- Hypertension with heart conditions classified as I51.5, Myocardial degeneration, or I51.7, Cardiomegaly, is assigned to a code from category I11, Hypertensive heart disease. No additional code is assigned to identify the specific heart condition.

- The same heart conditions (I50.-, I51.4-I51.7, I51.89, I51.9) with hypertension are coded separately if the provider has documented they are unrelated to hypertension. The applicable hypertension code I10, Essential (primary) hypertension, or a code from category I15, Secondary hypertension, should be assigned. Sequence according to the circumstances of the admission/encounter
- Note that documentation of ICD-10 code I10 HTN is not needed when captured in a combination code.
- Document the stage of the manifestation specificity as an additional code. e.g., CKD stage 3 or diastolic congestive heart failure (CHF). See ICD-10-CM guidelines for CKD and CHF.
- Confirm that the face-to-face or telehealth encounter is signed and dated by the clinician. Include the printed version that contains the clinician's full name and credentials (e.g., MD, DO, NP, PA).
- Document the treatment plan and follow up. A treatment plan can be in the form of a medication, referral, diet, monitoring and/or ordering a diagnostic exam.
- When using ICD-10 code I16.- (hypertensive crisis, urgency, and emergency), document the:
  - Systolic blood pressure when > 180 mm Hg or
  - Diastolic blood pressure when > 110 mm Hg.

*Continued on next page.*

## Subjective documentation considerations<sup>4</sup>

Risk factor type	Examples
<b>Common</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced age</li> <li>Obesity</li> <li>Family history</li> <li>Sedentary / unhealthy lifestyle</li> </ul>
<b>Modifiable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current cigarette smoking</li> <li>Second-hand smoke</li> <li>Diabetes</li> <li>Dyslipidemia / hypercholesterolemia</li> <li>Medications</li> </ul>
<b>Relatively fixed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low socioeconomic / educational status</li> <li>Male gender</li> <li>Psychosocial stress</li> <li>Other medical conditions (e.g., obstructive sleep apnea, CKD, renal or endocrine disorders)</li> </ul>

## Objective documentation considerations<sup>4</sup>

- The United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends:
  - Screening for HTN in adults aged 18 or older with office blood pressure measurement.
  - Obtaining blood pressure measurements outside of the clinical setting for diagnostic confirmation before starting treatment.
- Evaluation frequency appropriateness:
  - Adults aged 40+ or those with HTN risk factors .....annually
  - Adults aged 18–39 with normal measurements .....every 3–5 years
- At screening, patient should not be acutely ill and not using hypertensive medications.

## Hypertension (HTN)

ICD-10 code	Description	Documentation tips
<b>I10</b>	Essential (primary) HTN	Excludes essential (primary) HTN involving vessels of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brain (I60–I69).</li> <li>Eye (H35.0-).</li> </ul>
<b>I11.0</b>	Hypertensive heart disease with heart failure	Use additional code to identify the type of heart failure (I50.-).
<b>I11.9</b>	Hypertensive heart disease without heart failure	
<b>I12.0</b>	Hypertensive CKD with stage 5 CKD or end stage renal disease (ESRD)	Use additional code to identify the stage of CKD (N18.5, N18.6).
<b>I12.9</b>	Hypertensive CKD with stages 1–4 CKD or unspecified CKD	Use additional code to identify the stage of CKD (N18.1–N18.4, N18.9).
<b>I13.0</b>	Hypertensive heart and CKD with heart failure and stages 1–4 CKD or unspecified CKD	Use additional code to identify the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Type of heart failure (I50.-).</li> <li>Stage of CKD (N18.1–N18.4, N18.9).</li> </ul>
<b>I13.10</b>	Hypertensive heart and CKD without heart failure with stages 1–4 CKD or unspecified CKD	Use additional code to identify the stage of CKD (N18.1–N18.4, N18.9).
<b>I13.11</b>	Hypertensive heart and CKD without heart failure with stage 5 CKD or ESRD	Use additional code to identify the stage of CKD (N18.5, N18.6).
<b>I13.2</b>	Hypertensive heart and CKD with heart failure with stage 5 CKD or ESRD	Use additional code to identify the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Type of heart failure (I50.-).</li> <li>Stage of CKD (N18.5, N18.6).</li> </ul>

ICD-10 code	Description	Documentation tips
<b>I15.0</b>	Renovascular HTN	Also code underlying condition.
<b>I15.1</b>	HTN secondary to other renal disorders	
<b>I15.2</b>	HTN secondary to endocrine disorders	
<b>I15.8</b>	Other secondary HTN	
<b>I15.9</b>	Secondary HTN, unspecified	
<b>I16.0</b>	Hypertensive urgency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Also code any identified hypertensive disease (I10–I15).</li> <li>Use when systolic blood pressure is ≥ 180 mm Hg or diastolic blood pressure is 110 mm Hg in the absence of associated organ damage.</li> </ul>
<b>I16.1</b>	Hypertensive emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Also code any identified hypertensive disease (I10–I15).</li> <li>Use when systolic blood pressure is ≥ 180 mm Hg or diastolic blood pressure is 110 mm Hg in the presence of associated organ damage.</li> </ul>
<b>I16.9</b>	Hypertensive crisis, unspecified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Also code any identified hypertensive disease (I10–I15). e.g., a life-threatening rapid increase in the patient's blood pressure</li> </ul>

## Additional codes for specificity of manifestations

ICD-10 code	Description	ICD-10 code	Description
<b>N18.1</b>	CKD stage 1	<b>N18.9</b>	CKD, unspecified
<b>N18.2</b>	CKD stage 2	<b>I50.1–I50.89</b>	CHF category codes
<b>N18.3</b>	CKD stage 3	<b>I50.22</b>	Chronic systolic (congestive) heart failure
<b>N18.4</b>	CKD stage 4	<b>I50.32</b>	Chronic diastolic (congestive) heart failure
<b>N18.5</b>	CKD stage 5	<b>I50.42</b>	Chronic combined systolic (congestive) and diastolic (congestive) heart failure
<b>N18.6</b>	ESRD		

- 1 Diagnosis inaccuracies that are not addressed can result in administrative sanctions and potential financial penalties.
- 2 "New ACC/AHA High Blood Pressure Guidelines Lower Definition of Hypertension." ACA. 13 November 2017. Retrieved from <https://www.ACC.org/latest-in-cardiology/articles/2017/11/08/11/47/mon-5pm-bp-guideline-aha-2017>.
3. International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification.
4. "Hypertension in Adults: Screening." USPTF. 27 April 2021. Retrieved from <https://www.USPreventiveServicesTaskForce.org/uspstf/recommendation/hypertension-in-adults-screening>.