

Inflammatory bowel disease

Documentation and coding: Individual & Family Plans

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For coding education questions, email CignaHealthcareHCPEducation@CignaHealthcare.com.

It is 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,¹ 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.

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

Definitions

Irritable bowel disease² (IBD)

IBD is chronic inflammation of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract affecting bowel tissue. The two most common types of IBD are Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

- **Crohn's disease**
 - It can affect any part of the GI tract, but mostly starts in the small intestine first.
 - The damaged area appears in patches in the GI tract.
 - Inflammation may reach multiple layers of the GI wall.
- **Ulcerative colitis**
 - It can affect the large intestine to the rectum.
 - The damaged area appears to be continuous.
 - Inflammation is in the innermost lining of the colon.

Irritable bowel syndrome³ (IBS)

IBS affects the GI tract but does not change the bowel tissue. Signs and symptoms include:

- Changes in bowel habits.
- Bloating and gas.

Documentation and coding

- Document and use International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) codes to describe the highest level of specificity.
- Document the type of treatment plan.
- Code manifestations, such as pyoderma gangrenosum.³
- Support the diagnosis of IBD by documenting current medications² and treatments such as:
 - 5-aminosalicylic acids.
 - Biologics.
 - Corticosteroids.
 - Immunomodulators.
 - Surgery to remove damaged portions of the GI tract.

Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)

ICD-10 code

Description

K58.0	IBS with diarrhea
K58.1	IBS with constipation
K58.2	Mixed IBS
K58.8	Other IBS
K58.9	IBS without diarrhea (IBS not other specified)

1. Diagnosis inaccuracies that are not addressed can result in administrative sanctions and potential financial penalties.
2. "What is inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)?" Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 13 April 2022. Retrieved from: [https://www.CDC.gov/ibd/what-is-IBD.htm#:~:text=Inflammatory%20bowel%20disease%20\(IBD\)%20is,damage%20to%20the%20GI%20tract](https://www.CDC.gov/ibd/what-is-IBD.htm#:~:text=Inflammatory%20bowel%20disease%20(IBD)%20is,damage%20to%20the%20GI%20tract).
3. "Irritable Bowel Syndrome." Mayo Clinic. 12 May 2023. Retrieved from <https://www.MayoClinic.org/diseases-conditions/irritable-bowel-syndrome/symptoms-causes/syc-20360016>.

Crohn's disease

ICD-10 code	Description	Additional characters and codes to use
K50.00	Crohn's disease of small intestine without complications	
K50.01-	Crohn's disease of small intestine with complications	(-) Add 6th characters: 1 – With rectal bleeding 2 – With intestinal obstruction 3 – With fistula 4 – With abscess 8 – With other complication 9 – With unspecified complication
K50.10	Crohn's disease of large intestine without complications	
K50.11-	Crohn's disease of large intestine with complications	(-) Add 6th characters: 1 – With rectal bleeding 2 – With intestinal obstruction 3 – With fistula 4 – With abscess 8 – With other complication 9 – With unspecified complication
K50.80	Crohn's disease of both small and large intestines without complications	
K50.81-	Crohn's disease of both small and large intestines with complications	(-) Add 6th characters: 1 – With rectal bleeding 2 – With intestinal obstruction 3 – With fistula 4 – With abscess 8 – With other complication 9 – With unspecified complication
K50.90	Crohn's disease, unspecified without complications	
K50.91-	Crohn's disease, unspecified with complications	(-) Add 6th characters: 1 – With rectal bleeding 2 – With intestinal obstruction 3 – With fistula 4 – With abscess 8 – With other complication 9 – With unspecified complication

Ulcerative colitis

ICD-10 code	Description	Additional characters and codes to use
K51.00	Ulcerative (chronic) pancolitis without complications	
K51.01-	Ulcerative (chronic) pancolitis with complications	(-) Add 6th characters: 1 – With rectal bleeding 2 – With intestinal obstruction 3 – With fistula 4 – With abscess 8 – With other complication 9 – With unspecified complication
K51.20	Ulcerative (chronic) proctitis without complications	
K51.21-	Ulcerative (chronic) proctitis with complications	(-) Add 6th characters: 1 – With rectal bleeding 2 – With intestinal obstruction 3 – With fistula 4 – With abscess 8 – With other complication 9 – With unspecified complication
K51.30	Ulcerative (chronic) rectosigmoiditis without complications	
K51.31-	Ulcerative (chronic) rectosigmoiditis with complications	(-) Add 6th characters: 1 – With rectal bleeding 2 – With intestinal obstruction 3 – With fistula 4 – With abscess 8 – With other complication 9 – With unspecified complication

Ulcerative colitis (continued)

ICD-10 code	Description	Additional characters and codes to use
K51.40	Inflammatory polyps of colon without complications	
K51.41-	Inflammatory polyps of colon with complications	(-) Add 6th characters: 1 – With rectal bleeding 2 – With intestinal obstruction 3 – With fistula 4 – With abscess 8 – With other complication 9 – With unspecified complication
K51.50	Left sided colitis without complications	
K51.51-	Left sided colitis with complications	(-) Add 6th characters: 1 – With rectal bleeding 2 – With intestinal obstruction 3 – With fistula 4 – With abscess 8 – With other complication 9 – With unspecified complication
K51.80	Other ulcerative colitis without complications	
K51.81-	Other ulcerative colitis with complications	(-) Add 6th characters: 1 – With rectal bleeding 2 – With intestinal obstruction 3 – With fistula 4 – With abscess 8 – With other complication 9 – With unspecified complication
K51.90	Ulcerative colitis, unspecified without complications	
K51.91-	Ulcerative colitis, unspecified with complications	(-) Add 6th characters: 1 – With rectal bleeding 2 – With intestinal obstruction 3 – With fistula 4 – With abscess 8 – With other complication 9 – With unspecified complication

Gastrointestinal (GI) status

ICD-10 code	Description
T86.850	Intestine transplant rejection
T86.851	Intestine transplant failure
T86.852	Intestine transplant infection
T86.858	Other complications of intestine transplant
T86.859	Unspecified complication of intestine transplant
Z93.1	Gastrostomy status
Z93.2	Ileostomy status
Z93.3	Colostomy status
Z93.4	Other artificial openings of gastrointestinal tract status
Z94.82	Intestine transplant status