

Rheumatoid arthritis

Documentation and coding: Individual & Family Plans

October 2025

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 rheumatoid arthritis. It is not meant to replace your clinical judgment when caring for your patients.

Definitions²

Rheumatoid arthritis is a systemic disease that causes chronic inflammation. It primarily affects the joints, causing pain, stiffness, and swelling, but other organs can be affected as well. According to the College of Rheumatology, it is the most common type of autoimmune arthritis.

Common diagnostic labs and tests include rheumatoid factor, anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide, antinuclear antibody, erythrocyte sedimentation rate, C-reactive protein, X-rays, magnetic resonance imaging scans, computed tomography scans, ultrasounds, and dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry scan.

Treatment typically includes anti-inflammatories, corticosteroids, and disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (immunosuppressants), physical therapy, joint replacement, and on-going monitoring.

Documentation and coding guidance

- Document diagnostic statements that are compatible with the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD-10-CM) nomenclature.
- Specify:
 - Type: Rheumatoid, juvenile, etc.
 - Site(s): Wrist, hip, knee, etc.
 - Laterality: Right, left, bilateral.
 - Rheumatoid factor: positive or negative.
 - Any organ involvement.
- Link comorbid conditions or medical complications (e.g., rheumatoid arthritis associated with interstitial lung disease).
- When applicable, document diagnostic test results, treatment plans, referrals, long-term drug therapy, etc. within the assessment and/or plan of the SOAP³ note.
- Document, if present, linkage between immunosuppression or immunodeficiency and long-term drug therapy.

¹ Diagnosis inaccuracies that are not addressed can result in administrative sanctions and potential financial penalties.

² "Rheumatoid Arthritis." College of Rheumatology. February 2023. Retrieved from <https://rheumatology.org/patients/rheumatoid-arthritis>.

³ Subjective, objective, assessment, and plan (SOAP).

Immunodeficiency and long-term drug therapy

ICD-10 code	Description	Additional character(s)	Documentation and coding tips
D84.821	Immunodeficiency due to drugs		Use when the immunodeficiency is documented as a result of long-term drug therapy.
Z79.62-	Long-term use of immunosuppressant	(-) Add 6th character: 0 - biologic 1 - calcineurin inhibitor 2 - Janus kinase inhibitor 3 - mTOR inhibitor 4 - inhibitors of nucleotides synthesis	
Z79.69	Long-term use of immunomodulators and immunosuppressants		

Rheumatoid arthritis seropositive (with rheumatoid factor)

ICD-10 code	Description	Site	Laterality
M05.0-	Rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor, Felty's syndrome		
M05.1-	Rheumatoid lung disease with rheumatoid arthritis		
M05.2-	Rheumatoid vasculitis with rheumatoid arthritis	(-) Add 5th character: 0 - unspecified	(-) Add 6th character: 1 - right 2 - left 9 - unspecified
M05.3-	Rheumatoid heart disease with rheumatoid arthritis	1 - shoulder 2 - elbow 3 - wrist	
M05.4-	Rheumatoid myopathy with rheumatoid arthritis	4 - hand 5 - hip	
M05.5-	Rheumatoid polyneuropathy with rheumatoid arthritis	6 - knee 7 - ankle and foot	
M05.6-	Rheumatoid arthritis with involvement of other organs and systems	9 - multiple sites	
M05.7-	Rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor without organ or system involvement		
M05.8-	Other rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor	(-) Add 5th character: 0 - unspecified 1 - shoulder 2 - elbow 3 - wrist 4 - hand 5 - hip 6 - knee 7 - ankle and foot 9 - multiple sites A - other specified site(s)	(-) Add 6th character: 1 - right 2 - left 9 - unspecified
M05.9	Rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor, unspecified		
M05.A	Abnormal rheumatoid factor and anti-citrullinated protein antibody with rheumatoid arthritis		

Rheumatoid arthritis seronegative (without rheumatoid factor)

ICD-10 code	Description	Site	Laterality
M06.0-	Rheumatoid arthritis without rheumatoid factor	(-) Add 5th character: 0 - unspecified 1 - shoulder 2 - elbow 3 - wrist 4 - hand 5 - hip 6 - knee 7 - ankle and foot 9 - multiple sites A - other specified site(s)	(-) Add 6th character: 1 - right 2 - left 9 - unspecified
M06.1	Adult-onset Still's disease		
M06.2-	Rheumatoid bursitis	(-) Add 5th character: 0 - unspecified 1 - shoulder 2 - elbow 3 - wrist 4 - hand 5 - hip 6 - knee 7 - ankle and foot 8 - vertebrae 9 - multiple sites	(-) Add 6th character: 1 - right 2 - left 9 - unspecified
M06.3-	Rheumatoid nodule	(-) Add 5th character: 0 - unspecified 1 - shoulder 2 - elbow 3 - wrist 4 - hand 5 - hip 6 - knee 7 - ankle and foot 8 - vertebrae 9 - multiple sites	(-) Add 6th character: 1 - right 2 - left 9 - unspecified
M06.4	Inflammatory polyarthropathy		
M06.8-	Other specified rheumatoid arthritis	(-) Add 5th character: 0 - unspecified 1 - shoulder 2 - elbow 3 - wrist 4 - hand 5 - hip 6 - knee 7 - ankle and foot 9 - multiple sites A - other specified site(s)	(-) Add 6th character: 1 - right 2 - left 9 - unspecified
M06.9	Rheumatoid arthritis, unspecified		

Juvenile arthritis

ICD-10 code	Description	Site	Laterality
M08.0-	Unspecified juvenile rheumatoid arthritis	(-) Add 5th character: 0 – unspecified 1 – shoulder 2 – elbow 3 – wrist 4 – hand 5 – hip 6 – knee 7 – ankle and foot 9 – multiple sites A – other specified site(s)	(-) Add 6th character: 1 – right 2 – left 9 – unspecified
M08.1	Juvenile ankylosing spondylitis		
M08.2-	Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis with systemic onset (juvenile Still's disease NOS)	(-) Add 5th character: 0 – unspecified 1 – shoulder 2 – elbow 3 – wrist 4 – hand 5 – hip 6 – knee 7 – ankle and foot 9 – multiple sites A – other specified site(s)	(-) Add 6th character: 1 – right 2 – left 9 – unspecified
M08.3	Juvenile rheumatoid polyarthritis (seronegative)		
M08.4-	Pauciarticular juvenile rheumatoid arthritis	(-) Add 5th character: 0 – unspecified 1 – shoulder 2 – elbow 3 – wrist 4 – hand 5 – hip 6 – knee 7 – ankle and foot 9 – multiple sites A – other specified site(s)	(-) Add 6th character: 1 – right 2 – left 9 – unspecified
M08.8-	Other juvenile rheumatoid arthritis	(-) Add 5th character: 0 – unspecified 1 – shoulder 2 – elbow 3 – wrist 4 – hand 5 – hip 6 – knee 7 – ankle and foot 8 – vertebrae 9 – multiple sites	(-) Add 6th character: 1 – right 2 – left 9 – unspecified
M08.9-	Juvenile arthritis, unspecified	(-) Add 5th character: 0 – unspecified 1 – shoulder 2 – elbow 3 – wrist 4 – hand 5 – hip 6 – knee 7 – ankle and foot 9 – multiple sites A – other specified site(s)	(-) Add 6th character: 1 – right 2 – left 9 – unspecified