



## ICD-9-CM Codes and Chronic Kidney Disease

International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) codes are used by physicians in the United States in order to refer to clinical diagnoses for the purposes of reimbursement. Prior to October 1, 2005, the ICD-9-CM codes for kidney disease were used in one percent of the patient population and lacked specific terminology to describe the five different stages diagnosed and treated by a physician.

With the change made by National Center for Health Statistics contributed to a partnership between the National Kidney Foundation and the Renal Physicians Association, chronic kidney disease has been defined as structural or functional abnormalities of the kidney for a period of 3 months or longer either due to kidney damage or a glomerular filtration rate (GFR) of less than 60 ml/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> with specific distinctions according to disease progression (Stages 1-5).

Furthermore, the new ICD-9-CM codes allow for physicians to diagnose, track, treat and bill patients according to necessary medical services needed by their specific diagnosis.

ICD-9-CM codes	Description of Diagnosis	Recommended Treatment
585.1	CKD Stage 1	Specific therapy based on diagnosis. Management of comorbid conditions. Treatment of cardiovascular disease and cardiovascular risk factors.
585.2	CKD Stage 2 (mild)	Slowing the rate of loss of kidney function.
585.3	CKD Stage 3 (moderate)	Prevention and treatment of complications.
585.4	CKD Stage 4 (severe)	Preparation for kidney transplant or dialysis. Referral to a nephrologist.
585.5	CKD Stage 5 (kidney failure)	Kidney transplantation or dialysis treatment.
585.6	End stage renal disease	Kidney transplantation or dialysis treatment.
585.9	Chronic Kidney Disease, unspecified	Depending on the diagnosis, treatment can vary.

With a higher degree of specificity in the reporting of the different stages of kidney disease, physicians will be able to assess an individual's medical condition more efficiently and determine the specificity of treatments based on the severity of the disease. The ICD-9-CM codes can also assess the quality of care delivered and examine the utilization and costs of healthcare associated with chronic kidney disease management.

*Source: Stevens, Lesley. Chronic Kidney Disease: Proposed Revisions to the ICD-9-CM Classification. National Kidney Foundation.*

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