## Documentation and Coding Tips
# Chronic Kidney Disease

**A review of the patient's diagnostic studies, pertinent clinical findings and the stage of CKD must be documented to code the condition.**

## Specify When Documenting:

- **Underlying cause, if known.**
- **Stage and severity (include the GFR results, if available):**
  - Stage I, N18.1-Normal or slightly increased GFR (>/= to 90)
  - Stage II, N18.2-Mild kidney disease decreased GFR (60-89)
  - Stage III, N18.30-Moderate kidney disease, unspecified decreased GFR (30-59)
  - Stage III, N18.31-Moderate kidney disease 3a decreased GFR (45-59)
  - Stage III, N18.32-Moderate kidney disease 3b decreased GFR (30-44)
  - Stage IV, N18.4-Severe kidney disease decreased GFR (15-29)
  - Stage V, N18.5-Kidney failure GFR <15 (note acute or chronic and cause, if known), & End-Stage Renal Disease, N18.6

  *Note-If both a stage and ESRD are documented, assign code N18.6 only.*

  *Do not assign CKD codes based on GFR results alone.*

  *Assign N18.9 Chronic kidney disease, unspecified, if the stage of CKD is not documented.*

- **Presence/Complications:**
  - AV fistula or shunt for dialysis
  - Complication due to renal dialysis access device, implant or graft (i.e. embolism, hemorrhage, infection, occlusion, pain)
- **Associated diagnoses/conditions:**
  - Document any additional or secondary conditions that may be present
  - Document any cause and effect relationship between CKD and other conditions
- **Treatment:**
  - Dialysis dependence
  - Acute or chronic hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis
  - Transplant status
  - Use of immunosuppressants

## Documentation & Coding Examples

**Non-specific documentation example**:

Patient seen today for CKD follow up.  Repeated CMP today to ensure stability.

**Assign code**: N18.9 Chronic kidney disease, unspecified.

**Specific documentation example**:

Patient has five-year history of CKD Stage 3 but, based on trending GFR's, is now diagnosed with Stage 4 CKD. I am referring her to a nephrologist.

**Assign code**:  N18.4 Chronic kidney disease, stage 4.