

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Watch Out For Hep C Symptoms That Can Trip Up Your Coding

When you receive documentation for a patient that has hepatitis C, there are some signs and symptoms that you should look for. Jot down these symptoms and their codes so that your coding makes the grade every time.

Keep in mind: Many times patients with hepatitis C don't have visible symptoms because the disease is usually detected during routine physical exams or blood tests. Most times symptoms aren't prevalent until cirrhosis has developed in the liver. Nevertheless, some of the following symptoms could occur:

- Jaundice (**782.4**)
- Abdominal pain (789.01) (upper right abdomen)
- Fatigue (780.79)
- Loss of appetite (783.0)
- Nausea and vomiting (787.0)
- Low-grade fever (780.6)
- Dark urine (788.6)
- Generalized itching (698.9)
- Ascites (789.5)

Source: www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/000284.htm