

Home Health ICD-9/ICD-10 Alert

READER QUESTIONS: Don't Lose Heart Over Heart Failure Codes

Question: What codes do I report for heart failure?

Answer: The codes for heart failure are in the 428 category. Use 428.0 (Congestive heart failure, unspecified) for congestive heart failure. Code 428.0 includes right heart failure secondary to left heart failure. If the diagnosis was left heart failure then the correct code is 428.1 (Left heart failure).

Caution: CHF and heart failure are not interchangeable terms. A few years ago, codes were added for systolic heart failure (428.2x), diastolic heart failure (428.3x), and combined systolic and diastolic heart failure (428.4x). Don't use these codes unless they were included in the diagnostic statement. If the diagnostic statement says the patient has diastolic dysfunction with CHF, the diastolic failure would be coded as would the CHF.