

Home Health ICD-9/ICD-10 Alert

You Be the Coder: Code Thoroughly for Low Vision and CHF

Question: Our new patient is an 81 year-old gentleman referred to home health following a recent visit to his physician's office for an exacerbation of his congestive heart failure (CHF). His physician made multiple medication changes related to the CHF and has ordered home health nursing for teaching and training regarding medication management. He also has a history of hypertension (HTN), and macular degeneration with severe vision loss in both eyes. This makes it difficult for him to manage his medications and he recently suffered a fall at home when he tripped over his Pomeranian.

How should we code for him?

□ Missouri Subscriber

Answer: Code for this patient as follows, says **Andrea Manning, BS, RN, HCS-D, COS-C**, of **Manning Healthcare Group** in Talkeetna, AK.:

- **M1020a:** 428.0 (Congestive heart failure, unspecified);
- **M1022b:** 362.50 (Macular degeneration [senile], unspecified);
- **M1022c:** 369.22 (Better eye: severe impairment; lesser eye: severe impairment);
- **M1022d:** 401.9 (Essential hypertension, unspecified); and
- **M1022e:** V15.88 (History of fall).

Your patient's CHF is the primary diagnosis in this scenario because the focus of care is for medication teaching/management of his new cardiac medications.

The patient's vision impairment, which the physician documents as caused by macular degeneration, is impacting the patient's ability to manage his medications and has an impact on his plan of care (POC). So you'll code for these conditions next. Your macular degeneration code for this patient is 362.50, an unspecified code, because you don't have any details about the cause or type. And 369.22 is the appropriate code for severe visual impairment in both eyes.

Next, list codes for your patient's HTN and history of falls to indicate that these conditions also impact the care you will provide.