

Documentation and Reporting Rheumatoid Arthritis

DOCUMENTATION TIPS

Assess and document the patient's rheumatoid arthritis to the highest level of specificity. The ICD-10-CM Guidelines for Coding and Reporting state chronic conditions treated on an ongoing basis may be reported as often as the patient receives treatment or care for the condition.¹ Documentation of the current status should reflect consistency with prior visits in terms of site and organ or body system involvement, unless there is disease progression.

Documentation should include:

- Presence of rheumatoid factor, if applicable
- Site(s) affected and laterality
- Organ involvement
- Rheumatoid disease in lungs, heart, vasculature, muscle tissue
- Bursitis, nodule, inflammatory polyarthropathy, enteropathic arthropathies, polyneuropathy
- Felty syndrome
- Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, if applicable
- Immunosuppressants prescribed for the patient

Rheumatoid Arthritis Diagnosis Codes (not an all-inclusive list)

| ICD-10-CM Code | Description |
|----------------|--|
| M05.0- | Felty's syndrome |
| M05.1- | Rheumatoid lung disease with rheumatoid arthritis |
| M05.2- | Rheumatoid vasculitis with rheumatoid arthritis |
| M05.3- | Rheumatoid heart disease with rheumatoid arthritis |
| M05.4- | Rheumatoid myopathy with rheumatoid arthritis |
| M05.5- | Rheumatoid polyneuropathy with rheumatoid arthritis |
| M05.6- | Rheumatoid arthritis with involvement of other organs and systems |
| M05.7- | Rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor without organ or systems involvement |
| M05.8- | Other rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor |
| M06.0- | Rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor |
| M06.2- | Rheumatoid bursitis |
| M06.3- | Rheumatoid nodule |
| M06.8- | Other specified rheumatoid arthritis |
| M06.9 | Rheumatoid arthritis, unspecified |
| M08.- | Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis |

The fifth character identifies the affected joint:

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1 = shoulder | 5 = hip |
| 2 = elbow | 6 = knee |
| 3 = wrist | 7 = ankle and foot |
| 4 = hand | |

The sixth character identifies laterality. Document and report a diagnosis for each affected side:

1 = right
2 = left
9 = unspecified

Immunosuppressant Medications

Document and report long-term use of immunosuppressants prescribed for the patient as part of the treatment for rheumatoid arthritis – Z79.899 Other long term (current) drug therapy.

DOCUMENTATION AND REPORTING EXAMPLE

Patient here for follow-up on rheumatoid arthritis, bilateral wrists, with rheumatoid factor. Continue methotrexate and follow-up with rheumatologist next week.

M05.731 Rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor of right wrist without organ or systems involvement

M05.732 Rheumatoid arthritis with rheumatoid factor of left wrist without organ or systems involvement

Z79.899 Other long-term (current) drug therapy



HEDIS: Detailed information about the rheumatoid arthritis measure is available through your Passport/Molina Quality Representative.

According to the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY2022: “A dash (-) at the end of an alphabetic index entry indicates that additional characters are required.” Refer to the tabular list to identify the appropriate character(s) that will complete the diagnosis code.

1. ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY2022. 1 Oct. 2021, www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2022-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf. Accessed 30 Nov. 2021.