



QUICK GUIDE TO STANDARDS OF CARE FOR CHRONIC DISEASE SCREENING

Considerations for Referrals to Clinical Specialty Services

Initiate timely referrals to nephrologists and registered dietitian nutritionists (RDN) to slow the development and progression of chronic kidney disease (CKD) and end-stage renal disease.

Considerations for Referring Patients to Nephrology Specialty Services					
CKD Stage 1	CKD Stage 2	CKD Stage 3		CKD Stage 4	CKD Stage 5
Kidney damage and GFR > 90	Kidney damage and GFR 60-89	3A GFR 45-59	3B GFR 30-44	GFR 15-29	GFR <15 (no dialysis)
ACR > 30 mg/g		ACR: 30-300 mg/g	ACR: > 300 mg/g		
Refer patients for nephrology consultation if the trend of their eGFR values indicates a decline by > 4mL/min/yr. If GFR is low, evaluate for proteinuria.		Consider referring patients for a nephrology consult and nutritional assessment by an RDN to help patients strengthen self-management skills that slow disease progression.	Patients should be referred to a nephrologist and RDN for nutritional assessment and discussion about treatment options, including eligibility and preparation for organ transplant or dialysis. Patients should be provided with kidney disease patient education (KDE) services.		Patients require management by a nephrology specialty team (nephrologist, renal dietitian, nephrology nurse, nurse practitioner or physician assistant).
Consider consulting with a nephrologist at any point in a patient's CKD disease process, especially if they experience a steady reduction in their GFR of more than 25-30%.					
*Assessment of estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) and presence or severity of proteinuria is more precise than only using serum creatinine (SCr) concentrations to recognize advanced CKD, particularly in elderly and frail patients.					
ICD-10-CM	N18.1	N18.2	N18.3	N18.4	N18.5

Medicare Billing Codes for KDE Services for Patients with Stage 4 CKD:

- **Use diagnosis code 585.4** (chronic kidney disease, stage IV (severe)) to code for KDE services.
- **G0420:** Face-to-face educational services related to the care of chronic kidney disease; individual, per session, per one hour
- **G0421:** Face-to-face educational services related to the care of chronic kidney disease; group, per session, per one hour

References:

1. Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Provider's Guide to Coding and Documenting Diagnosis Cigna-HealthSpring: <https://www.cigna.com/static/docs/medicare-2018/hcp-icd-ckd.pdf>
2. Medicare Claims Processing: Coverage of Kidney Disease Patient Education Services <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R1876CP.pdf>