

ICD-10-CM Documentation and Coding Best Practices Hepatitis

Overview

"Hepatitis" means inflammation of the liver. Toxins, certain drugs, some diseases, heavy alcohol use, and bacterial and viral infections can all cause hepatitis. Hepatitis is also the name of a family of viral infections that affect the liver; the most common types are Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C.

Hepatitis B and C are the most common forms of hepatitis transmitted by blood and body fluid. Hepatitis A is also common but transmitted by food. Hepatitis D and E are less common.

Types of Hepatitis

Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A is highly contagious liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus. The virus is one of several types of hepatitis viruses that cause inflammation and affect the liver's ability to function. The hepatitis A virus is transmitted through ingestion of contaminated food and water or from close contact with a person or object that is infected.

Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B is an infectious disease caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV) which affects the liver. It can cause both acute and chronic infections. Most of those with chronic disease have no symptoms; however, cirrhosis and liver cancer may eventually develop. The virus is transmitted sexually, or by blood/body fluid exposure.

Hepatitis B with delta agent is defined as the most severe and acute and chronic form of hepatitis. It is transmitted either by the Hepatitis D viral strain, and is often linked towards the progression of cirrhosis and/or hepatocellular carcinoma. The virus is transmitted sexually, or by blood/body fluid exposure.

Hepatitis C

Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis C virus; the virus can cause both acute and chronic hepatitis, ranging in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious, lifelong illness.

The virus is primarily transmitted by needles shared among drug abusers, blood transfusion, hemodialysis and needle sticks. It can also be transmitted by sexual contact. It is considered moderately severe with the potential to become chronic and therefore may result in cirrhosis, liver cancer, or liver failure.

- **Acute Hepatitis C virus infection** is a short-term illness that occurs within the first 6 months after someone is exposed to the Hepatitis C virus. For most people, acute infection leads to chronic infection.
- **Chronic Hepatitis C virus infection** is a long-term illness that occurs when the Hepatitis C virus remains in a person's body. Hepatitis C virus infection can last a lifetime and lead to serious liver problems, including cirrhosis (scarring of the liver) or liver cancer.

Quality care is a team effort.
Thank you for playing a starring role!



Diagnostic Testing

Hepatitis A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hepatitis A surface antibody (HAV IgM) test detects the first antibody produced by the body when it is exposed to hepatitis A. It detects early or recent infections and diagnoses the disease in people with systems of acute hepatitis.
Hepatitis B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) is present in acute and chronic infection Anti-Hepatitis B core antigen (Anti-HBc IgM) is only positive during the acute phase of the infections
Hepatitis C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no acute infectious phase serological testing available Confirmation of infection determined by Anti-Hepatitis C (Anti-HCV) for initial screening, which can be confirmed with more specific testing through polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and/or nucleic acid testing (NAT)

Signs and Symptoms

• Nausea	• Loss of appetite	• Jaundice	• Dry mucous membranes
• Vomiting	• Dark urine	• Abdominal pain	

Physical Exam Findings

• Malaise/Fatigue	• Dehydration	• Fever, typically during acute phase
• Anorexia	• Firm/enlarged liver	• Pulsatile liver
• Ascites	• Palmar erythema	• Hepato-jugular reflux

Associated Diseases

• Cirrhosis	• Secondary biliary cirrhosis	• Hepatorenal syndrome
• Primary biliary cirrhosis	• Hepatopulmonary syndrome	• Hepatopulmonary carcinoma

Coding and Documentation Guidance

- Document the type of hepatitis
- Document the acuity – chronic, acute, with/without hepatic coma, with/without delta agent
- Document behavior that led to the acquisition of hepatitis
- Refrain from using the term “History of” if a patient still has an active viral infection.
- Document treatment and follow up.
- For patients who have had a liver transplant, document and report the appropriate transplant status code and document any anti-rejection drugs if appropriate

Viral Hepatitis	
B15.9	Hep. A w/o hepatic coma
B18.0	Chronic viral Hep. B w/delta agent
B18.1	Chronic viral Hep. B
B16.1	Acute viral Hep. B w/delta agent
B16.2	Acute viral Hep. B w/hepatic coma
B18.2	Chronic viral Hep. C
B17.10	Acute viral Hep. C
B19.21	Viral Hep. C w/hepatic coma
B17.2	Viral Hep. E

Hepatic Failure	
K72.10	Chronic Hepatic Failure
K70.40	Alcoholic Hepatic Failure w/o coma
K76.6	Portal Hypertension
K76.7	Hepatorenal syndrome
K76.81	Hepatopulmonary syndrome
K72.90	Hepatic failure, unspec. w/o coma
K71.10	Hepatic failure due to drugs
K72.00	Acute Hepatic Failure

Cirrhosis	
K74.3	Primary biliary cirrhosis
K74.4	Secondary biliary cirrhosis
K74.5	Biliary Cirrhosis, unspecified
K70.30	Alcoholic Cirrhosis, w/o ascites
K70.31	Alcoholic Cirrhosis w/ascites
K74.60	Unspecified Cirrhosis of liver

Related Conditions	
K75.4	Auto-immune Hepatitis
R17	Jaundice, unspecified
C22.	Malignant neoplasm of liver
K70.9	Alcoholic liver disease
Z72.	High risk sexual behavior

Chronic Hepatitis	
K73.0	Chronic Persistent Hepatitis, NEC
K73.1	Chronic Lobular Hepatitis, NEC
K73.2	Chronic Active Hepatitis, NEC
K73.8	Other Chronic Hepatitis, NEC
K73.9	Chronic Hepatitis, unspecified