General Coding Guidelines

Patients with stage 4 chronic kidney disease (CKD) are eligible for a lifetime maximum of up to six sessions of pre-dialysis kidney disease education. There are several coding and billing requirements to consider when conducting these sessions.

Requirements:

• The physician managing a patient’s care must refer them
• Sessions must be performed by a qualified individual such as a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant or certified nurse specialist
• A typical session is considered one hour
  – In order to bill for a session, it must be at least 31 minutes long
• Education sessions can be performed on an individual basis or in group settings
• Educational content during the sessions can include the following topics:
  – Co-morbidities and treatment recommended to delay CKD progression
  – Prevention of uremic complications
  – Diet and nutrition
  – Therapeutic options
  – Treatment modalities
  – Alternatives to treatment
• Tailor sessions to meet patients’ unique physical or mental health needs
• Develop and implement outcome assessments to ensure the patient has information needed after completing the sessions
• Charge the patient the applicable co-pay due

Accurate coding is a key factor in achieving appropriate reimbursement while avoiding penalties from external audits. We offer coding review services that include unbiased reviews of charts from your practice; these services include comparisons to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service guidelines and reports to help providers improve their coding accuracy. If you would like more information about our nephrology-specific coding review services, please contact us at PracticeSolutions@davita.com or call us directly at 866-434-9029.

Codes to use for pre-dialysis kidney disease sessions:

G0420 Face-to-face educational services related to the care of chronic kidney disease; individual, per session, per hour

G0421 Face-to-face educational services related to the care of chronic kidney disease; group, per session, per one hour