

# Kidney Disease Education

## 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](mailto:PracticeSolutions@davita.com) or call us directly at **866-434-9029**.

CMS Manual System, Pub 100-04 Medicare Claims, Dec 2009. Retrieved from <https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Transmittals/downloads/R1876CP.pdf>. National Institute of Health, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, Lesson 5 Getting Ready for Treatment (Beyond the Basics). <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/communication-programs/nkdep/identify-manage-patients/kidney-disease-education-lesson-builder/lesson-5-getting-ready-treatment-beyond-basics>

This information is a general overview only. Each situation is unique, and as such the information included here may not be appropriate. This information is not provided as coding or legal guidance or advice.

\* Described in 42 CFR § 410.48  
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## 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