

Heart Failure

In an effort to aid Health Information Management Coding and Medical Billing Professionals with ICD-10, the following coding tip is provided with an educational intent.

Heart failure coding guidelines have changed. Documentation of heart failure is not always specified as systolic or diastolic, but terms such as **HFpEF** and **HFrEF** are being used in documentation which can be interpreted as systolic or diastolic. Previous guidelines have stated that coders cannot assume either systolic or diastolic heart failure when these terms are used. As we continue to learn how to use ICD-10-CM, it has been determined that **HFpEF** and **HFrEF** will allow a coder to appropriately code heart failure without a query.

- **HFpEF** may be referred to as heart failure with preserved systolic function and further as diastolic heart failure.
- **HFrEF** may also be referred to as heart failure with low ejection fraction, or heart failure with reduced systolic function, or in other terms meaning systolic heart failure.
- **HFpEF** and **HFrEF** are more contemporary terms and may be acute or chronic
- **HFrEF** = systolic heart failure
- **HFpEF** = diastolic heart failure

Tip: In ICD-10, the term “congestive” is considered a non-essential term for heart failure. ICD-10 has no code for “congestive” heart failure; the term is included in code I50.9 - Unspecified heart failure. In order to assign appropriate ICD-10 code for heart failure, documentation of the term “congestive” is not required. When documentation of systolic and/or diastolic heart failure is present, “congestive” is included in the code(s) I50.2 Systolic (congestive) heart failure, I50.3 Diastolic (congestive) heart failure or I50.4 Combined systolic (congestive) and Diastolic (congestive) heart failure.

ICD-Trivia: What ICD-10 CM code is assigned when acute pulmonary edema is present with heart failure?

ICD-Trivia Answer: I50.1 Left ventricular failure is assigned for the diagnosis (acute, chronic, unspecified) pulmonary edema with heart failure.

Reference: American Hospital Association's Coding Clinic, First Quarter ICD-10 2016

Coding Clinic is the official resource and authority for ICD-10 coding rules and conventions.

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