

Coding of Hepatic Encephalopathy

Hepatic encephalopathy (HE) is a complication of liver cirrhosis characterized by personality changes, cognition impairment (eg, dyspraxia), flapping tremor, and even a decreased level of consciousness. The diagnosis of HE is made by recognizing neuropsychiatric changes in a patient with liver disease, after excluding alternate causes of brain dysfunction.¹

There is a specific ICD-10 code for hepatic encephalopathy: K76.82.² It is very important to use the right code so patients can be properly managed through a transition of care and other providers are aware of the condition. Accurate coding also allows a patient’s claim to be paid by the insurance carrier and your organization to be properly reimbursed.

One strategy to help identify patients with HE may be to look for certain recorded prescriptions with any liver disease diagnosis in their medical record.³

Type of Code	Billable Code
ICD-10 ^{2*}	K76.82: Hepatic encephalopathy
Diagnosis Related Groups: MS-DRG⁴	DRG 441: Disorders of liver except malignancy, cirrhosis, or alcoholic hepatitis with major complication or comorbidity DRG 442: Disorders of liver except malignancy, cirrhosis, or alcoholic hepatitis with complication or comorbidity DRG 443: Disorders of liver except malignancy, cirrhosis, or alcoholic hepatitis without complication or comorbidity or major complication or comorbidity
ICD-11 ⁵	DB99.5: Hepatic encephalopathy

ICD, International Classification of Diseases for Mortality and Morbidity Statistics.

*The ICD-10 codes and all other patient-access-related information are provided for informational purposes only. It is the treating physician’s responsibility to determine the proper diagnosis, treatment, and applicable ICD-10 code. Salix Pharmaceuticals does not guarantee coverage or reimbursement for the product.

References:

1. Vilstrup H, Amodio P, Bajaj J, et al. Hepatic encephalopathy in chronic liver disease: 2014 practice guideline by the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases and the European Association for the Study of the Liver. *Hepatology*. 2014;60(2):715-735. **2.** Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. 2023 ICD-10-CM. Accessed July 29, 2022. <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/icd-10/2023-icd-10-cm>. **3.** Tapper EB, Korovaichuk Baki J, et al. Identifying patients with hepatic encephalopathy using administrative data in the ICD-10 era. *Clin Gastro Hep*. 2021;19:604-606. **4.** Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. ICD-10-CM/PCS MS-DRG v39.0 definitions manual. Accessed July 29, 2022. https://www.cms.gov/icd10m/version39-fullcode-cms/fullcode_cms/P0010.html. **5.** ICD-11 for Mortality and Morbidity Statistics. Accessed July 29, 2022. <https://icd.who.int/browse11/1-m/en#/http%3a%2f%2fid.who.int%2fid%2fentity%2f1769383160>.

Content contained in this educational disease-state resource is being provided by Salix Pharmaceuticals for informational purposes only. Physicians should use their own clinical judgment in diagnosing, counseling, and advising patients.

