



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

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**

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.

