



## Transitioning HCC Codes

- HCC (hierarchical condition category) coding determines a patient's risk adjustment factor (RAF) score, which is used to decide the amount of money allocated to care for that patient for the year.
- The goal of the ACO is to deliver quality patient care at an average cost per year that is under the benchmark set by CMS.
- By coding to the **highest level of specificity possible**, a physician can increase a patient's risk score significantly, which increases the annual spend benchmark.

### Coding Tips

- Transitioning duplicative diagnoses into single, more specific diagnoses can help keep problem lists current, concise, and manageable.
- When a patient progresses from one disease stage to another or develops a complication, transition the initial diagnosis code, rather than completing and adding a new diagnosis.
- This practice can help to facilitate that all HCC codes are assessed **at least annually**.

### Transitioning Diagnoses in Allscripts:

The screenshot shows the Allscripts EMR interface. On the left, a list of active diagnoses is visible, including ADHD, Bronchitis, Colon cancer screening, Conductive hearing loss, Developmental language disorder, Diabetes, Difficulty of mother performing breastfeeding, Dysphagia, E. coli UTI (urinary tract infection), Encounter for immunization, Encounter for Papanicolaou smear of cervix, Encounter for vaccination, Endocarditis, acute, Hepatocellular carcinoma, History of graft versus host disease, Hypertension, Impetigo, Nicotine addiction, PCOS (polycystic ovarian syndrome), Pelvic pain, Pressure-related ear pain, Screening mammogram, encounter for, Swelling of ankle joint, Thoracic outlet syndrome, and Type 2 diabetes mellitus with stage 3a chronic kidney disease. The 'Type 2 diabetes mellitus with stage 3a chronic kidney disease' entry is highlighted with a yellow box. In the center, the 'Annotate' menu is open, and the 'Transition to' option is highlighted with a yellow box. To the right, a search for 'ADHD' is shown, with 'Search for New Problem' highlighted in yellow.



### Searching Complex Diagnoses in Allscripts:

- The EMR allows you to search for complex codes easily by entering more specific search criteria.
- For example, if your patient has hypertensive CHF and CKD stage 5, search for "htn chf ckd" to yield more specific results

The screenshot shows the search results for 'htn chf ckd' in the Allscripts EMR. The search bar at the top contains 'htn chf ckd'. Below the search bar, a list of results is displayed, including 'Malignant HTN with heart disease, w/o CHF, with chronic kidney disease', 'Malignant HTN with heart disease, w/o CHF, w/o chronic kidney disease', 'Malignant systolic hypertension with CHF and chronic kidney disease', 'Malignant essential hypertension with CHF w/o chronic kidney disease', 'Malignant hypertension, heart failure & chronic kidney disease stage I', and 'Malignant hypertension, heart failure, and stage III chronic kidney disease'. The first two results have a '+' icon next to them, indicating that more detailed options are available.

- If you see a "+" next to the description, you can click to get additional, more detailed options.

The screenshot shows the search results for 'Diabetes mellitus with stage 3 chronic kidney disease'. The search bar at the top contains 'Diabetes mellitus with stage 3 chronic kidney disease'. Below the search bar, a list of results is displayed, including 'Diabetes mellitus with stage 3 chronic kidney disease, w/o chronic kidney disease', 'Diabetes mellitus with stage 3 chronic kidney disease, w/o chronic kidney disease', 'Diabetes mellitus with stage 3 chronic kidney disease, w/o chronic kidney disease', 'Diabetes mellitus with stage 3 chronic kidney disease, w/o chronic kidney disease', 'Diabetes mellitus with stage 3 chronic kidney disease, w/o chronic kidney disease', and 'Diabetes mellitus with stage 3 chronic kidney disease, w/o chronic kidney disease'. The first two results have a '+' icon next to them, indicating that more detailed options are available.