

## Education Coding Tips

- The patient's risk score shows how sick the patient is and indicates a higher cost of care. This risk score impacts revenues allotted to the health plan to provided needed care for the patients. At the beginning of the year the patient's risk score is 0.
- Chronic conditions should be and reassessed at every visit. Chronic conditions that permanently affect the patient should also be redocumented, such as amputations or ostomies.
- A sicker patient has a higher risk score. Example: A patient with liver disease has a higher risk score when End Stage Liver Disease is diagnosed.
- Resolve conditions on the problem list that are no longer present such as stroke (after leaving the hospital history of cerebral infarction or residual effects following cerebrovascular disease should be documented), chronic kidney disease stage II that has advanced to stage III, respiratory failure with hypoxia, or surgically corrected conditions.
- Only document history of cancer if the cancer has been removed and/or the cancer is not being treated. History of cancer has a risk score of 0.
- Be specific with documenting conditions. Example: document the status of heart failure as acute or chronic and systolic or diastolic.
- The Heart Failure diagnosis has the most disease interactions for a patient's risk score. This means that Heart Failure when combined with CKD stages III-V, Diabetes types I and II, Chronic Lung Disorders, and/or Heart Arrhythmias will add an additional disease interaction risk score for the patient.