

# Insider

Informative and educational coding information for providers

## FOCUS ON: CIRRHOSIS

### THE PREVALENCE OF CIRRHOSIS



Forty percent of patients with cirrhosis are asymptomatic. The condition may be discovered during a routine examination with laboratory or radiographic studies, or at autopsy. Any chronic insult to the liver can cause progression to

cirrhosis. In most persons, approximately 80 to 90 percent of the liver parenchyma must be destroyed before liver failure is manifested clinically.<sup>1</sup>

### CAUSES OF CIRRHOSIS

The majority of chronic liver failure and cirrhosis is caused by alcohol abuse, chronic hepatitis C, and obesity with nonalcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD).<sup>1</sup> In 2005, there were 17,935 persons with cirrhosis in the United States who were awaiting a liver transplant.<sup>2</sup>

Seventy-five to eighty percent of cirrhosis cases could be prevented by eliminating alcohol abuse. In addition, mortality rates in patients with alcoholic liver disease are considerably higher than in those with other forms of cirrhosis.<sup>2</sup>

*Approximately 3.9 million Americans have chronic hepatitis C.*<sup>2</sup>

NAFLD is an increasingly common cause of liver injury. Risk factors include obesity, diabetes, hypertriglyceridemia, and profound weight loss after jejunioileal bypass.<sup>1</sup>

#### Etiologies of Hepatic Cirrhosis<sup>2</sup>

- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alcohol (60 to 70 percent)</li> </ul>                              |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biliary obstruction (5 to 10 percent)</li> </ul>                   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chronic hepatitis B or C (10 percent)</li> </ul>                   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hemochromatosis (5 to 10 percent)</li> </ul>                       |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NAFLD (10 percent)—most commonly resulting from obesity</li> </ul> |

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### ALWAYS REMEMBER...

- Documentation Specificity = Accurate Coding

### DOCUMENTATION AND CODING TIPS<sup>3</sup>

#### Cirrhosis

**571.2** Alcoholic cirrhosis of liver

*Code also 303.xx, Alcohol dependency syndrome, if applicable.*

**571.5** Cirrhosis of liver without mention of alcohol

**571.5** Portal cirrhosis

*Note: When coding 571.5, always code first, if applicable, viral hepatitis (acute) (chronic) (070.0-070.9).*

#### Hepatitis

**571.42** Autoimmune hepatitis

**571.40** Chronic hepatitis unspecified

**571.41** Chronic persistent hepatitis

**070.54** Chronic hepatitis C without mention of hepatic coma

573.3 Hepatitis, unspecified

V12.09 History of hepatitis C

**571.49** Other (chronic hepatitis, active or aggressive; recurrent hepatitis)

#### Liver

**571.3** Alcoholic liver damage, unspecified

571.8 Other chronic nonalcoholic liver disease

571.9 Liver damage

573.9 Liver disease unspecified

#### Transplant

**V42.7** Liver transplant status

**Bolded codes** risk adjust

1 Heidelbaugh, J, et al. "Cirrhosis and Chronic Liver Failure: Part I. Diagnosis and Evaluation." *Am Family Physician* 2006;74:756-762.

2 United Network for Organ Sharing. Data. Accessed May 2, 2006, at: [www.unos.org/data/](http://www.unos.org/data/).

3 Ingenix ICD-9-CM for Physicians Vol. 1&2, Eden Prairie: Ingenix, 2011 Print