

## **A Diagnostic Code for Hepatic Encephalopathy**

Effective October 1, 2022, and coinciding with Liver Awareness Month, health care professionals (HCPs) will be able to use **K76.82** as the new diagnosis code for patients with hepatic encephalopathy (HE). HE is a complication of cirrhosis, a severe form of liver disease, which can be difficult to diagnose.

Urgency is key, as data has shown that HE patients who are readmitted within 30 days after hospital discharge have a 20% 1-year mortality rate. The launch of **K76.82** is important to help better understand HE and address gaps in care. A quick, widespread adoption of the use of **K76.82** may help ensure the diagnosis is documented correctly, which may address confusion concerning coverage criteria and may impact clinical management of the disease.

The proper documentation of an HE diagnosis may also help advance efforts to ensure patients' clinical management is appropriate.

For more information about HE, health care providers can visit

[LiverHealthNow.com](https://www.liverhealthnow.com).

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### **What is K76.82: A New ICD-10-CM assigned to Hepatic Encephalopathy (HE)**

- **K76.82** is the important new ICD-10-CM diagnosis code for hepatic encephalopathy (HE) that may improve patient identification and address gaps in care
- HE is a complication of cirrhosis, a severe form of liver disease. Early HE symptoms can start slowly and may go unnoticed and include both mental and physical decline
- Effective October 1, 2022 – which coincidentally is Liver Awareness Month – the code will be available for use by physicians, nurses, medical coders,

and others covered by the provisions of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)

### **Why is this Important?**

- Up to 80% of cirrhosis patients may eventually develop some form of HE ranging from minimal to overt
- is specific to HE. Multiple non-specific disease codes are currently used to monitor patients with this condition
- A quick, widespread adoption of the use of **K76.82** may help ensure HE diagnosis is documented correctly which may address confusion concerning coverage criteria and may impact clinical management of the disease
- The proper documentation of an HE diagnosis can help advance efforts to ensure patients' clinical management is appropriate

**For more information about HE and to find resources that may help, health care professionals can visit [LiverHealthNow.com](https://www.liverhealthnow.com).**

**Additionally, to view current trends in chronic liver disease and HE, read the 2022 Liver Health Annual Trends report published by Salix this October in time for Liver Awareness Month. The report will be available here at [www.liverhealthnow.com/trendsreport](https://www.liverhealthnow.com/trendsreport) starting September 30, 2022.**

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