

Ventilator Dependence

The scenario of ventilator dependence presumes a chronic state. Most patients requiring long-term ventilator support have a tracheostomy. Therein lies the HCC severity weight which augments the physician’s quality metrics. Simply noting ventilator dependence gains no severity weight to the physician but increases the severity weight for the facility (CC).

Dependence on ventilator codes:

ICD-10	ICD-10 Description	Linked HCC Description	HCC	MCR	MCR/Mcaid	Instit	CC/MCC
Z99.11	Dependence on respirator	--	--	--	--	--	CC

Tracheostomy status codes:

ICD-10	ICD-10 Description	Linked HCC Description	HCC	MCR	MCR/Mcaid	Instit	CC/MCC
J95.00 J95.01 J95.02 J95.03 J95.04 J95.09	Tracheostomy complications Unspecified Hemorrhage from stoma Infection of stoma Malfunction of stoma, Tracheo-esophageal fistula Other complication	Respirator Dependence/Tracheostomy Status	82	1.000	2.183	1.622	CC
Z43.0	Encounter for attention to trachea	Respirator Dependence/Tracheostomy Status	82	1.000	2.183	1.622	--
Z93.0	Tracheostomy status	--	--	--	--	--	--

All the trachea-related ICD-10 codes are complications, except Z43.0: Encounter for attention to tracheostomy. It still provides large HCC relative weight to the clinician but does not add to facility metrics.

Simply noting that the patient has a tracheostomy gains no severity weight. Some description of **attention to the tracheostomy** is required. When specific complication codes do not apply, document as: well healed, irritated, eroded, normally functioning, clean, leaking, not leaking, comfortable, not comfortable, replacement not required, replaced, well cared for by RT, etc.—anything that notes you addressed the tracheostomy. Make sure coders are aware.

As the hierarchies of HCCs work, when HCC 82 is credited, HCC 84 (and its relative weight) is dropped. HCC 84 includes acute, chronic, and acute on chronic respiratory failure.



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The documentation should include **chronic respiratory failure** when clinically relevant (CC, HCC):

ICD-10	ICD-10 Description	Linked HCC Description	HCC	MCR	Mc/Mcaid	Instit	CC/MCC
J96.10 J96.11 J96.12	Chronic respiratory failure, unspecified Chronic respiratory failure with hypoxia Chronic respiratory failure with hypercapnea	Cardio-Respiratory Failure and Shock	84	0.282	0.492	0.313	CC

Or, if still treating an **acute respiratory failure** (MCC, HCC):

ICD-10	ICD-10 Description	Linked HCC Description	HCC	MCR	Mc/Mcaid	Instit	CC/MCC
J96.00 J96.01 J96.02 J96.20 J96.21 J96.22	Acute respiratory failure, unspecified Acute respiratory failure with hypoxia Acute respiratory failure with hypercapnia Acute on Chronic resp failure, unspecified Acute on Chronic resp failure, with hypoxia Acute on Chronic resp failure, with hypercapnea	Cardio-Respiratory Failure and Shock	84	0.282	0.492	0.313	MCC