

Risk Coding Tips and Tools Rheumatoid Arthritis

To accurately code for rheumatoid arthritis, please refer to the detailed guidelines for proper documentation to support the condition.

To fully describe rheumatoid arthritis, please document:

- With or without rheumatoid factor, seropositive or seronegative
- Which joints are affected, including laterality, if known
- Organ systems that are affected
- Presence and location of nodules

To support the condition, please include: **DSP (Diagnosis, Status/Symptoms, Plan)**

- The confirmed diagnosis with as much specificity as possible
- Status and/or symptoms of the condition with any pertinent physical exam findings and test results
- Plan of care, which includes diagnostic testing, medications or recommendations for follow-up or self-care measures

Physician Documentation Example

Example 1: Specifically describes condition and has adequate support

HPI:

65-year-old female in for annual wellness exam. Patient has seropositive Rheumatoid Arthritis affecting her right knee. Currently taking Adalimumab, tolerating well and pain is controlled. Seeing Rheumatologist next month.

Example 2: Specifically describes condition and has adequate support

Assessment/Plan:

Rheumatoid Arthritis

Managed by rheumatology. Negative rheumatoid factor. Nodules noted in both wrists. Continue methotrexate.

Example 3: Describes non-specifically and is missing support

Patient here for follow up visit. Active problems: Rheumatoid arthritis, hypertension, GERD. Return in about 6 months.

American College of Rheumatology. (2023). *Rheumatoid arthritis*. Rheumatology.org.
<https://rheumatology.org/patients/rheumatoid-arthritis>

Arthritis Foundation. (n.d.). *About arthritis*. Arthritis.org. www.arthritis.org

PHN Communications. (2024). *What to know about the CMS V28 risk model and capturing chronic conditions*. People's Health.
<https://providerblog.peopleshealth.com/featured-news/what-to-know-about-the-cms-v28-risk-model-and-capturing-chronic-conditions/>

You can find this resource and others like it in the OHN Risk Coding Corner at
www.OrlandoHealth.com/Network/Resources.

You can also contact us at RiskCoding@OrlandoHealth.com for additional questions or support needs.