

CONDITIONS UNLIKELY TO RESOLVE

Overview:

Many chronic conditions remain with a patient for the remainder of their lifetime. While they may not fully resolve, some of these conditions may be in a state of remission or compensation with treatment. Documentation should indicate the clinical significance of the diagnosis, even when it may not readily appear on examination. When a condition is in remission, be sure to choose the appropriate diagnosis and description to reflect remission status.



Documentation keys

There are several circumstances when a chronic condition might resolve. These include but are not limited to:

- An artificial opening is reversed, closed, or no longer functional.
- Chronic conditions treated by organ transplant (only when there is no longer evidence at the current encounter of active disease that originally necessitated the transplant.) For example:
 - Diabetes without complications, status-post pancreas transplant
 - Cirrhosis/end-stage liver disease/hepatitis, status-post liver transplant
 - COPD/emphysema, status-post lung transplant
 - Heart failure/cardiomyopathy, status-post heart transplant

The following diagnoses are generally considered to be chronic and tend to be lifelong:

Heart failure (HF)	Parkinson's Disease	Transplant status for the following:
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE)	Heart
Chronic Hepatitis B	Multiple Sclerosis (MS)	Bone Marrow
Atherosclerosis of Aorta	Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA)	Stem Cell
Atherosclerosis of the extremities	Amputation Status	Liver
Many psychiatric conditions, even single episode (use remission identifier)	All functional artificial openings (do not include chronic foley catheter use)	Lung
All alcohol and drug dependency (even in remission)	HIV/AIDS	Pancreas
Type 1 and 2 Diabetes Mellitus	Dementia/ Alzheimer's	Kidney



Documentation tip

Documentation is key to supporting the diagnosis. Always describe the condition as accurately and completely as possible. Include any abnormal findings and an explanation of the clinical significance of the condition for each patient visit or encounter.

Remember: While diagnosis may not fully resolve, some of these conditions may be in a state of remission or compensation with treatment