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DIAGNOSIS CODING TIP OF THE WEEK:

There are combination codes that can be used for a patient that have hypertension and another chronic illness. The hypertension codes are in the ICD-9 book under 401-405. These codes should be used if a patient has hypertensive heart disease (402) or hypertensive chronic kidney disease (403), or hypertensive heart and CKD (404) and also secondary hypertension (405). There are 4th and 5th digits which clarify the chronic illness as malignant, benign, unspecified and also the stage the illness is in and whether the patient has heart failure or not.