Appendix C: Details for CMS-HCC Model Structure

Structure Concept	Details
Hierarchical	In the HCC models, HCC conditions are hierarchical, meaning diagnoses that are clinically related are ranked by severity in a hierarchy. For example, there is a hierarchy for diabetes (see Table 3). Only one of the three diabetes HCCs may be reported for a patient per year.
Additive Across Hierarchies	When a hierarchy is not applicable, the HCCs accumulate for a patient. For example, a male with heart disease, stroke, and cancer would be assigned three separate HCCs, and his RAF would include the sum of the relative factors for all three categories (e.g., HCCs 85, 100 and 10; see Table 3). Thus, HCC models are additive across hierarchies and disease groups, but not within hierarchies.
Disease Interactions	The CMS-HCC model also incorporates additional relative factors for disease interactions. Certain combinations of diseases have been determined to increase the cost of care. For example, a patient with diabetes and CHF has higher expected costs than a patient that has only diabetes or a patient that has only CHF. Disease interactions result in higher risk scores when the disease pairs are present. The model includes disease-disease interactions as well as disability-disease interactions. For example, in the CMS-HCC model v22, the disease interaction of diabetes and CHF adds a relative factor of 0.182.

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