

Documentation and Coding: Substance Use Disorders

A quick reference guide to assist with accurate, complete documentation and coding that reflects the true nature of a patient's current health status at the highest level of specificity. Per ICD-10 official guidelines for reporting and coding, *"The importance of consistent, complete documentation in the medical record cannot be overemphasized. Without such documentation, accurate coding cannot be achieved."*

Substance use disorders involve a pathologic pattern of behaviors in which patients continue to use a substance despite experiencing significant problems related to its use. Diagnosis of substance use disorder is based on diagnostic criteria for the pattern of behaviors. Treating substance use disorder is challenging and varies depending on the substance and circumstances.

Documentation & Coding Tips		
Documentation needs to be clear and detailed using the following terms to allow accurate ICD10 code selection		
Specificity:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance name • Type of disorder: use, abuse, dependence, withdrawal • Severity: mild, moderate, or severe • Status: current, in remission (partial or full) 		
Complications and/or associated conditions: Document & code the relationship between the substance disorder and any associated physical, mental, or behavioral disorder, such as...		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intoxication, withdrawal, delirium, perceptual disturbance, • Mood, anxiety, sleep, sexual dysfunction, depressive, psychotic disorders • Psychoactive substance withdrawal can occur in individuals who do not have a diagnosis of dependence but who use the substance regularly (i.e., use or abuse) and then reduce or cease the use. 		
Treatment:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document treatment (medication, psychotherapy, or a combination of both) and current response to treatment. • Document any treatment refusals, or non-compliance 		
Other:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the provider documents use, abuse, and dependence of the same substance use the following hierarchy when coding 		
	<u>Documentation</u>	<u>Assign Code</u>
	Both use & abuse documented	for abuse
	Both abuse & dependence documented	for dependence
	Use, abuse, & dependence all documented	for dependence
	Both use & dependence documented	for dependence
ICD-10	Description	Drugs included
F10.XXX	Alcohol-related disorders	
F11.XXX	Opioid-related disorders	ex. heroin, methadone, oxycodone, hydrocodone
F12.XXX	Cannabis-related disorders	
F13.XXX	Sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic-related disorders	ex. Ativan, valium, Xanax, lorazepam
F14.XXX	Cocaine related disorders	
F15.XXX	Other stimulant-related disorders	ex. meth, Ritalin, Adderall, Dexedrine, bath salts
F16.XXX	Hallucinogen related disorders	ex. LSD, PCP, ketamine
F18.XXX	Inhalant related disorders	Ex. glue, gas, sniff, whippets, rush, bolt
F19.XXX	Other psychoactive substance-related disorders (Inc. polysubstance drug use (indiscriminate drug use))	

References:

<https://www.encoderprofp.com/eepro4payers/index.jsp>

<https://www.merckmanuals.com/professional>

[SharePoint Site for RPM/QMC - Fourth Quarter 2022 Volume 9 Number 4.pdf - All Documents \(internal\)](#)

