

Documentation and Coding: Alcohol- and Drug-Related Disorders

CMS-HCC_V28 Model Updates

September 2023

At Healthfirst, we are committed to helping providers accurately document and code their patients' health records. This tip sheet is intended to assist providers and coding staff with the documentation and **ICD-10-CM selection, along with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Hierarchical Condition Category (HCC) Version 28 Model Updates**, on services submitted to Healthfirst—specifically for common types of **alcohol- and drug-related disorders**. It provides information from industry sources about proper coding practice. However, this document does not represent or guarantee that Healthfirst will cover and/or pay for services outlined. Coverage decisions are based on the terms of the applicable evidence of coverage and the provider's participation agreement. This includes the determination of any amounts that Healthfirst or the member owes the provider.

Alcohol- and drug-related disorders are **classified** according to the documented **severity**, which is differentiated as **abuse**, **dependence**, or **use**, as well as the complex of presenting symptoms.

Keywords for coding substance use disorders:	
Use	is irregular or low-frequency use of a substance that is not habitual.
Abuse	is habitual use of a substance that negatively impacts a patient's health or social functioning but has not arrived at the point of physical and/or mental dependency.
Dependence	is a chronic mental and physical state where the patient has to use a substance in order to function normally; generally, these patients experience signs of withdrawal upon cessation of the substance.
In Remission	In all subcategories for dependence, abuse, and use, there are codes available for in remission to indicate that the clinical criteria for dependence on or abuse or use of a psychoactive substance are no longer met.

Coding Tips

- If both use and abuse are documented, assign only the **code for abuse**.
- If both abuse and dependence are documented, assign only the **code for dependence**.
- If both use and dependence are documented, assign only the **code for dependence**.
- If use, abuse, and dependence are all documented, assign only the **code for dependence**.
- Mild, moderate, and severe substance use disorder in early or sustained remission is classified in the category **substance abuse in remission**.

Alcohol- and Drug-Related Disorders

Categories F10–F19 Identify Alcohol- and Drug-Related Disorders

ICD-10 Category Codes	Descriptions
F10	Alcohol-related disorders
F11	Opioid-related disorders
F12	Cannabis-related disorders
F13	Sedative-, hypnotic-, or anxiolytic-related disorders
F14	Cocaine-related disorders
F15	Other stimulant-related disorders
F16	Hallucinogen-related disorders
F18	Inhalant-related disorders
F19	Other psychoactive substance-related disorders

What the 4th Character Identifies

Dependence-2	Abuse-1	Use-9
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Please note: Combination codes for alcohol or drug use, abuse, and dependence that include complications (*anxiety disorder, intoxication, mood disorders, delirium, delusions, withdrawal, sexual dysfunctions, sleep disorders, etc.*) are represented by the 5th and 6th characters.

Clinical Documentation Tips for Use, Abuse, and Dependence

Be sure to indicate:

- Updated status of condition
- Substance or drug (cannabis, alcohol, opioids, etc.)
- Severity (mild, moderate, etc.)
- Pattern of use (continuous use, in remission, relapsed, etc.)
- Substance-induced mood/psychotic symptoms (depression, hallucinations, anxiety, etc.)
- Current presentation (intoxication, drunkenness, withdrawal, etc.)
- Treatment plan (rehabilitation, maintenance therapy [specify drug], prevention educational materials and recognition, Alcoholics Anonymous [AA], etc.)

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Other Tips

- For Dependence in remission diagnosis, the words in remission must be documented.
 - For History of Alcohol or Drug Dependence diagnosis, default to in remission codes.
- Avoid substituting History of Alcohol or Drug Use and Abuse for Dependence in remission. Instead, use Personal History of Alcohol/Drug Use - Z87.898 (Personal history of other specified conditions).

Please note: If the dependence is related to a prescribed medication and the only symptoms are tolerance and withdrawal, the criterion to use the term drug dependent for a patient is **not** considered to be met.

ICD-10 Codes	Descriptions
Z81.1	Family history of alcohol abuse and dependence
Z71.42	Counseling for family member of alcoholic
Z71.41	Alcohol abuse counseling and surveillance of alcoholic
Z63.72	Alcoholism and drug addiction in family
Z71.51	Drug abuse counseling and surveillance of drug abuser
Z71.52	Counseling for family member of drug abuser
Z81.3	Family history of other psychoactive substance abuse and dependence

Questions?

Contact us at #Risk_Adjustments_and_clinical_Documentation@healthfirst.org.

For additional documentation and coding guidance, please visit the coding section at [HFproviders.org](https://www.healthfirst.org/HFproviders.org).

References

- [ICD-10-CM Official Coding Guidelines, FY 2024](#)
- [AAPC.com](https://www.aapc.com)
- [CodingClinic.com](https://www.codingclinic.com)