

Documentation and Coding: Alcohol Disorders

Updated October 2022

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 on services submitted to Healthfirst—specifically for alcohol disorders. It provides information from industry sources about proper coding practices. 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.

F10: Alcohol-Related Disorders

Alcoholic mental disorders are classified according to the documented severity, which is differentiated as abuse, dependence, or use. Alcoholic mental disorders are also coded according to the complexity of the presenting symptoms; these are the combination code criteria. Code examples of Alcohol Abuse are marked in bold font.

Code Description	Abuse	Dependence	Use
Complication, Unspecified	F10.19	F10.29	F10.99
Anxiety	F10.180	F10.280	F10.980
Delusions	F10.150	F10.250	F10.950
Hallucinations	F10.151	F10.251	F10.951
Intoxication	F10.12*	F10.22*	F10.92*
Mood Disorder	F10.14	F10.24	F10.94
Persisting Amnestic Disorder	-	F10.26	F10.96
Persisting Dementia	-	F10.27	F10.97
Sexual Dysfunction	F10.181	F10.281	F10.981
Sleep Disorder	F10.182	F10.282	F10.982
Withdrawal	F10.13*	F10.23*	F10.93*

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Code Description	Abuse	Dependence	Use
Other Specified Complication	F10.188	F10.288	F10.988
In Remission	F10.11	F10.21	F10.91**
Uncomplicated, Unspecified	F10.10	F10.20	F10.90

How to Code Encounters for Alcohol Disorders and Counseling

Please note that encounters for alcohol disorders and counseling can be coded along with alcohol-related disorders as a secondary diagnosis.

<p>Z63.72</p> <p>Alcoholism and drug addiction in family</p>	<p>Z71.41</p> <p>Alcohol abuse counseling and surveillance of alcoholic</p>	<p>Z71.42</p> <p>Counseling for family member of alcoholic</p>	<p>Z81.1</p> <p>Family history of alcohol abuse and dependence</p>
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How to Code Alcohol-Related Disorders

Use	Abuse	Dependence	Remission
<p>An irregular or low-frequency use of a substance that is not habitual</p>	<p>A habitual use of a substance that negatively impacts a patient's health or social functioning</p>	<p>A chronic mental and physical state where the patient has to use a substance to function normally</p>	<p>Is considered a subcategory of dependence to which diagnosis codes are assigned</p>
<p>If both use and abuse are documented, assign only the code for abuse.</p>	<p>If both abuse and dependence are documented, assign only the code for dependence.</p>	<p>If use, abuse, and dependence are all documented, assign only the code for dependence.</p>	<p>Mild, moderate, and severe substance use disorder in early or sustained remission is classified in the category substance abuse in remission.</p>

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Coding Documentation Tips

- Use additional code for blood alcohol level, if applicable (Y90*)
- Pattern of use (e.g., continuous use, in remission, relapsed, etc.)
- Assignment of a code for “in remission” requires physician statement/documentation
- Specify mood and psychotic symptoms (e.g., depression, hallucinations, anxiety, etc.)
- Include current presentation (e.g., intoxication, drunkenness, withdrawal)
- Indicate treatment plans (e.g., rehabilitation, maintenance therapy, Alcoholics Anonymous [AA], etc.)
- ICD-10-CM currently provides codes for differentiating levels of severity (e.g., F10.1 Alcohol abuse vs. Alcohol Dependence vs. F10.9 Alcohol use unspecified when the severity of use is not known) as well as codes for differentiating between current use and prior use but currently in remission. Please note: Guideline effective October 1, 2022.

Treatment Plans for Alcohol Disorders

Behavioral Treatment	Behavioral treatment is aimed at changing behaviors through counseling sessions that are led by a healthcare professional. Most studies and researchers approve of this approach because it is shown to be beneficial.
Medication	There are medications that are approved to stop and/or reduce alcohol abuse and prevent relapse. These medications should be noted in the medical documentation and linked to the alcohol disorder.
Mutual Support Group	Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and other 12-step programs provide peer support for people quitting or cutting back on alcohol. Combined with treatment led by healthcare professionals, mutual support groups can offer a valuable added layer of support.

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Coding Examples

Case 1	What is the appropriate code assignment for a diagnosis of “alcoholic neuropathy”? Would it be appropriate to assign codes from subcategory F10.2, alcohol dependence, and code G62.1, alcoholic polyneuropathy?
Rationale	Assign code G62.1, alcoholic polyneuropathy, for a diagnosis of alcoholic neuropathy. Query the provider as to whether alcohol dependence or alcohol abuse is present; and assign the appropriate code from category F10, alcohol-related disorders. If the provider indicates that the patient is not currently drinking, assign the appropriate “in remission” code. Source: <i>AHA Coding Clinic (Volume 6, Third Quarter, 2019)</i>
Case 2	A patient is diagnosed with acute alcoholic pancreatitis due to alcohol dependence. Would it be appropriate to assign code F10.288, alcohol dependence with other alcohol-induced disorder, as an additional code assignment?
Rationale	Assign codes K85.20, alcohol-induced acute pancreatitis without necrosis or infection; and F10.20, alcohol dependence, uncomplicated, for the alcoholic pancreatitis and alcohol dependence. In this context, alcoholic pancreatitis is not classified as an alcohol-induced disorder. Therefore, code F10.20 is assigned rather than code F10.288, alcohol dependence with other alcohol-induced disorder. Source: <i>AHA Coding Clinic (Volume 7, First Quarter, 2020)</i>

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 Guidelines for Coding and Reporting, FY 2023](#)
- [CodingClinicAdvisor.com](https://www.codingclinicadvisor.com)
- niaaa.nih.gov (Treatment for Alcohol Problems)