

SEPTEMBER 2025

## Pemphigus

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 common types of **Pemphigus**. 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 amount that Healthfirst or the member owes the provider.

**Pemphigus** is an autoimmune disease that causes blistering of the skin like inside the mouth, nose, throat, eyes, and genitals. The most common types of Pemphigus are Pemphigus vulgaris & Pemphigus foliaceus. There is no cure for pemphigus, however it may be controlled with medications.

### Diagnosis Codes and Descriptions

ICD-10-CM	Description
L10.0	Pemphigus vulgaris
L10.1	Pemphigus vegetans
L10.2	Pemphigus foliaceus
L10.3	Brazilian pemphigus [fogo selvagem]
L10.4	Pemphigus erythematosus
L10.81	Paraneoplastic pemphigus
L10.89	Other pemphigus
L10.9	Pemphigus, unspecified

# Documentation and Coding

## Documentation Recommendations

Update Status of Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stable</li> <li>Worsening - i.e Bullae in mouth/lips</li> </ul>		
Identify Type of Pemphigus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vulgaris</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vegetans - Other Terms:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dermatitis Vegetans</li> <li>Neumann's Disease/Syndrome</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foliaceous - Includes:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cazenave's Disease</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brazilian - (fogo selvagem/wildfire)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Erythematous - (Senear-Usher Syndrome)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drug-induced - (Identify drug from category <b>T36-T50</b>)</li> </ul>
Identify Type of Pemphigus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paraneoplastic -</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other Pemphigus -</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unspecified -</li> </ul>
Update Exam Findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location of blisters</li> <li>Nikolsky or Asboe-Hansen sign</li> <li>Mucus membranes involved</li> <li>Other</li> </ul>		
Diagnostic with findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biopsy with immunofluorescence, blood test, endoscopy, other</li> </ul>		
Link Associated Conditions with Terms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Due to,"</li> <li>"Secondary to" or</li> <li>"Associated with"</li> </ul>		

# Documentation and Coding

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<b>Treatment Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Referral to burn unit if needed</li><li>• Cleaning and dressing of blisters</li><li>• Document loss of functional activities, if any</li><li>• Complications i.e: infections, cellulitis, dehydration, malnutrition, other</li><li>• Conditions that affect the plan of care. i.e., Diabetes, depression or other</li><li>• For drug induced Pemphigus, document the drug that caused the adverse effect</li><li>• Document any side effects of medication/therapy i.e., rituximab/Rituxan</li><li>• Link medications to conditions:</li><li>• i.e., prednisone; nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs),</li><li>• Local steroid injections; Immunosuppressant drugs, i.e., CellCept</li></ul>
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## Coding Tips:

- Code to the highest level of specificity for appropriate ICD-10 code
- If multiple pemphigus is documented select the most specific condition
- Use additional code for adverse effect, if applicable, to identify drug from category

**T36-T50.Z96S**

# Documentation and Coding

## Coding Example

<b>Case</b>	A 50-yr. old woman presented to the office complaining of severe oral pain and dysphagia. Intraoral inspection revealed ulcerated lesions on the lips, buccal mucosa, and floor of the mouth. In some areas, the oral mucosa was detaching and bleeding when touching. There was no relevant medical history. She also presented blistering lesions on the back, abdomen, neck, and eyes. Incisional oral biopsy revealed pemphigus vulgaris. Start patient on a combination of Rituximab and topical Corticosteroids.
<b>Diagnosis Reported</b>	<b>L10.0 - Pemphigus Vulgaris</b>
<b>Rationale</b>	Documentation clearly indicated biopsy revealed Pemphigus Vulgaris.

## References

- [Pemphigus | National Institutes of Health](#)
- [Pemphigus and Associated Comorbidities | National Library of Medicine](#)
- [Secondary Diabetes Mellitus in Pemphigus Vulgaris and Management Issues | Clinical Dermatology Review](#)
- [The Risk of Depression in Patients with Pemphigus | National Library of Medicine](#)

## Questions?

Contact us at [#Risk\\_Adjustments\\_and\\_clinical\\_Documentation@healthfirst.org](mailto:#Risk_Adjustments_and_clinical_Documentation@healthfirst.org).

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

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