

Schizophrenia

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 **Schizophrenia**. 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 the 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.

Schizophrenia is a group or spectrum of severe, chronic brain disorders that manifest as disturbances of thought, perception, mood, conduct or behavior, and personality.

ICD-10 Codes and Description

Code	Description
F20.0	Paranoid Schizophrenia
F20.1	Disorganized Schizophrenia
F20.2	Catatonic Schizophrenia
F20.3	Undifferentiated Schizophrenia
F20.5	Residual Schizophrenia
F20.81	Schizophreniform Disorder
F20.89	Other Schizophrenia

Documentation and Coding

Code	Description
F20.9†	Schizophrenia, unspecified
F21	Schizotypal Disorder (Borderline schizophrenia)
F25.0	Schizoaffective Disorder, bipolar type
F25.1	Schizoaffective Disorder, depressive type
F25.8	Other Schizoaffective Disorders
F25.9†	Schizoaffective Disorder, unspecified

†Use only in the event that no other code describes the condition.

Coding Tips

- Schizoaffective disorders (**F25***) should not be coded together with mood affective disorders with psychotic symptoms (**F30.2, F31.2, F31.5, F31.64, F32.3, F33.3**), and/or with schizophrenia diagnosis (**F20***) in the same encounter.
- When documenting and coding schizophrenia, document additionally, if applicable, other specified cognitive deficit (**R41.84***)
- **F20.0** - Paranoid schizophrenia cannot be coded with **F22** - Paranoia (Delusional disorders)
- Category **F25*** - schizoaffective disorders cannot be coded with category **F20*** - Schizophrenia

*Additional digits are required to complete the code.

Documentation and Coding

Clinical Documentation Recommendations

Type		
Schizophrenia (F20*) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undifferentiated • Disorganized • Catatonic • Paranoid • Residual • Other 	Schizotypal Disorder (F21) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borderline Schizophrenia • Latent Schizophrenia • Prepsychotic Schizophrenia • Prodromal Schizophrenia • Pseudoneurotic Schizophrenia • Pseudopsychopathic Schizophrenia • Schizotypal Personality Disorder 	Schizoaffective Disorder (F25*) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bipolar Type • Depressive Type

*Additional digits are required to complete the code.

Status of Condition		
Active or New Onset	First Episode or Multiple episodes	Symptomatic or Asymptomatic

Symptoms		
Psychotic symptoms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delusions • Hallucinations • Disorganized thinking • Changes in mood or emotions 	Cognitive symptoms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memory issues • Problem solving inability • Behavior changes 	Motion symptoms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agitation • Catatonia • Repetitive movements

Documentation and Coding

Diagnostic Tests/Assessment Tools

- Brief Clinical Assessment Scale for Schizophrenia (BCASS)
- Psych Evaluation
- Exclusion of other conditions
- Imaging tests (MRI or CT) to rule out structural brain abnormalities

Treatment/Management

- Cognitive-behavioral therapy
- Antipsychotic medications
- Mood stabilizers
- Rehabilitation services
- Referrals
- Psychotherapy

Coding Example

Question	How is chronic schizophrenia with acute exacerbation coded? Are two codes assigned? Acute schizophrenia is indexed to code F23, Brief psychotic disorder. There is an Excludes1 note at category F20, Schizophrenia that excludes brief psychotic disorder (F23)
AHA Coding Clinic 2019, 2nd Quarter Rationale	Assign code F20.9 , Schizophrenia, unspecified, for chronic schizophrenia with acute exacerbation. The existing ICD-10-CM codes for schizophrenia do not differentiate severity or acute exacerbation.

Documentation and Coding

References

- <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2025-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf>
- [Schizophrenia - National Institute of Mental Health \(NIMH\)](#)
- [AHA Coding Clinic Advisor Homepage | AHA Coding Clinic | AHA Coding Clinic](#)
- [FDA Approves Drug with New Mechanism of Action for Treatment of Schizophrenia | FDA](#)

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

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