

NOVEMBER 2025

## Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

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 **Systemic Lupus Erythematosus**. 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.

**Systemic Lupus Erythematosus** is an autoimmune disease where the immune system attacks healthy tissue of the skin, joints, kidneys, brain, and other organs.

### ICD-10 Codes and Descriptions

ICD-10CM	Description
<b>M32.0</b>	Drug-induced systemic lupus erythematosus
<b>M32.10</b>	Systemic lupus erythematosus, organ or system involvement unspecified
<b>M32.11</b>	Endocarditis in systemic lupus erythematosus
<b>M32.12</b>	Pericarditis in systemic lupus erythematosus
<b>M32.13</b>	Lung involvement in systemic lupus erythematosus
<b>M32.14</b>	Glomerular disease in systemic lupus erythematosus
<b>M32.15</b>	Tubulo-interstitial nephropathy in systemic lupus erythematosus
<b>M32.19</b>	Other organ or system involvement in systemic lupus erythematosus
<b>M32.8</b>	Other forms of systemic lupus erythematosus
<b>M32.9</b>	Systemic lupus erythematosus, unspecified

# Documentation and Coding

## Documentation Recommendations

<b>Updated Status of Condition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Currently on medication "x"; currently stable</li><li>• Worsening</li><li>• Improved</li></ul>
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<b>Identify type of Lupus</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drug-induced systemic lupus erythematosus</li><li>• Endocarditis in systemic lupus erythematosus</li><li>• Pericarditis in systemic lupus erythematosus</li><li>• Lung involvement in systemic lupus erythematosus</li><li>• Glomerular disease in systemic lupus erythematosus</li><li>• Tubulo-interstitial nephropathy in systemic lupus erythematosus</li><li>• Systemic lupus erythematosus, unspecified</li></ul>
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<b>Identify Risk Factors</b>	<p>Gender</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ More common in women</li></ul> <p>Age</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Mainly affects people of ages between 15 and 45</li></ul> <p>Race</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ More common in African Americans, Hispanics and Asian Americans</li></ul> <p>Family history</p>
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<b>Diagnostic Tests</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete Blood Count (CBC)</li><li>• Comprehensive Metabolic Panel (CMP)</li><li>• Urinalysis</li><li>• Antinuclear Antibody (ANA) Test</li><li>• Anti-dsDNA Antibody Test</li><li>• Biopsy</li></ul>
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<b>Treatment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Antimalarials</li><li>• Corticosteroids</li><li>• Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)</li><li>• Immunosuppressants</li><li>• Biologics</li></ul>
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## Coding Tips

- For code **M32.0**, use additional code for adverse effect, if applicable, to identify drug (**T36-T50** with fifth or sixth character 5).
- For code **M32.19**, use additional code(s) to identify organ or system involvement, such as encephalitis (**G05.3**).
- There is no default code for "lupus NOS." Provider should specify type of lupus to assign the appropriate code.
- Do not document a suspected or unconfirmed diagnosis as if it were confirmed.
- Do not use words that imply uncertainty ("likely," "probable," "apparently," "consistent with," etc.) to describe a current or confirmed diagnosis in the outpatient setting.
- Do not use "history of" or "past medical history" if the condition is still active. In diagnosis, the phrases "history of" and "past medical history" implies the condition has resolved or no longer exist as a current problem.
- Status of conditions should be coded and reported annually for Risk Adjustment purposes.

## Coding Example

<b>Case 1</b>	What is the correct ICD-10-CM code for lupus when the type is not specified in the documentation? Since "lupus NOS" defaulted to systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) in ICD-9-CM, would code <b>M32.9</b> , Systemic lupus erythematosus, be assigned as a default, in ICD-10-CM?
<b>AHA Coding Clinic 2018,3rd Quarter, page 14, Volume 5, Number 3</b>	In ICD-10-CM there is no default code assignment for lupus, NOS/unspecified; therefore, query the provider for clarification regarding the specific type of lupus so that the appropriate code can be assigned. After review of ICD-10 and ICD-11, the World Health Organization (WHO) has determined that ICD-10 will remain with no default code for lupus not otherwise specified or unspecified lupus. However, hospitals and other health care facilities may develop facility-specific guidelines to report code <b>M32.9</b> , Systemic lupus erythematosus, unspecified, as a default for lupus not otherwise specified.

# Documentation and Coding

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## References

- [ICD-10-CM Official Coding Guidelines](#)
- [Coding Clinic Advisor](#)
- [Lupus Risk Factors | Johns Hopkins Medicine](#)
- [Systemic Lupus Erythematosus \(Lupus\): Diagnosis, Treatment, and Steps to Take](#)

## Questions?

Contact us at [#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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