

Physician Engagement EDUCATION

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SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER - CODING & BILLING

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PROVIDER GUIDE TO DIAGNOSE SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD)

DOCUMENTATION & CODING TIPS:

1.SUD is coded by type of substance, severity of the problem, and any associated complications.

2.In Remission

- Mild SUD in remission is classified to substance abuse in remission.
- Moderate or severe SUD in remission is classified to substance dependence in remission.

3. Use, Abuse and Dependence

- If use and abuse are documented, assign only the code for abuse.
- If abuse and dependence are documented, assign only the code for dependence.
- If use, abuse and dependence are documented, assign only the code for dependence.
- If use and dependence are documented, assign only the code for dependence.
- 4. If the documentation states there was substance abuse or dependence in the past but are currently not using that substance, then diagnose "in remission."



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DOCUMENTATION & CODING TIPS: (CONT'D)

- 5. If the documentation states alcohol addiction or alcoholism, code as "dependence."
- 6. Assign a substance use code only when the provider documents a relationship between the use and an associated physical, mental or behavioral disorder. Prescription medications being taken as prescribed would not be coded as "dependence" unless the provider has documented a maladaptive behavior associated with the use of the medication.

PICK THE SUBSTANCE	
F10	Alcohol
F11	Opioids
F12	Cannabis
F13	Sedative, hypnotic or anxiolytic
F14	Cocaine
F15	Other stimulant
F16	Hallucinogen
F18	Inhalant
F19	Other psychoactive substance (polysubstance)
4 TH DIGIT SPECIFIES SEVERITY	
9	Use
1	Abuse
2	Dependence

7. The 5th and 6th digits specify complications such as; intoxication, psychosis, in withdrawal, delirium, delusions, sexual dysfunction, sleep disorder, hallucinations and in remission.

EXAMPLE: History and physical notes cannabis dependence and ongoing cannabis abuse.

• F12.20 Cannabis dependence uncomplicated (in the hierarchy, dependence is coded if both abuse and dependence are documented).

Adobe Care and Wellness coding and documentation materials are based on current guidelines and are to be used for reference only. Clinical and coding decisions are to be made based on the independent judgement of the treating physician or qualified health care practitioner and in the best interest of the patient. ICD-10CM, CPT and HCPCS are the authoritative references for purposes of assigning diagnosis and procedure codes to be reported. It is the responsibility of the physician and/or coding staff to determine and submit accurate codes, charges and modifiers for services rendered.