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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.
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 - 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."

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).**