



Changes to the Coding of Alcohol and Substance Use

REALIGNING DSM-5 AND ICD-10-CM

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Background

The American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) is a clinical criteria-based classification system used by health care professionals to diagnose mental disorders. The clinical criteria in DSM provide the basis for describing the essential characteristics of mental disorders. At the time that ICD-10-CM was being developed, the Fourth Edition of DSM (DSM-IV) was in effect. The World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention developed ICD-10-CM Chapter 5, Mental, Behavioral, and Neurodevelopmental Disorders, in conjunction with the American Psychiatric Association (APA) and harmonized many ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes with the clinical terms found in DSM-IV. However, with the APA adoption of DSM-5 in 2013, this clinical classification system and the ICD-10 administrative classification system became disjointed, particularly in describing substance use. To realign DSM-5 clinical terms with ICD-10 diagnosis codes, changes were made to the ICD-10 code set effective Oct. 1, 2017 to incorporate many DSM-5 descriptions of mental disorders.

Coding Change Details

ICD-10-CM code descriptions for alcohol and substance use differentiate between use, abuse, and dependence. However, the APA no longer recognizes these terms. With the adoption of DSM-5, clinical terminology for alcohol and

substance use was revised from "substance abuse and dependence" to "substance use disorder". DSM-5 substance use disorders are measured along a continuum of mild, moderate, or severe. Although the terms abuse, addiction, and dependence are no longer recognized in DSM, these terms are still found in ICD-10-CM, with a hierarchy coders are required to follow as outlined below.

To move towards better alignment between DSM-5 and ICD-10-CM, CMS has incorporated many new DSM-5 clinical terms in the Alphabetic Index. For example, the Alphabetic Index now contains entries for alcohol abuse, alcohol dependence, and new entries for alcohol use disorders.

Abuse

Alcohol (non-dependent) F10.10

Disorder

Alcohol use
Mild F10.10
Moderate or severe F10.20

Dependence

Alcohol (ethyl) (methyl) (without remission) F10.20

The Tabular Listing now includes DSM-5 clinical terms as nonessential modifiers.

F10.10 Alcohol abuse, uncomplicated

Alcohol use disorder, mild

F10.14 Alcohol abuse with alcohol-induced mood disorder

Alcohol use disorder, mild, with alcohol-induced bipolar or related disorder

Alcohol use disorder, mild, with alcohol-induced depressive disorder

These new entries in the Alphabetic Index and Tabular Listing also apply to substance use and can be found for ICD-10 code categories F11 – F19. Here is a partial example of the ICD-10-CM 2017 Tabular Listing for cocaine related disorders with inclusion of DSM-5 clinical terms as nonessential modifiers:

Coding Guidelines

If both use and abuse (mild use disorder) are documented.	Assign only the code for abuse (mild use disorder).
If both abuse (mild use disorder), and dependence (moderate or severe use disorder) are documented.	Assign only the code for dependence (moderate or severe use disorder).
If use, abuse (mild use disorder), and dependence (moderate or severe use disorder) are all documented.	Assign only the code for dependence (moderate or severe use disorder).
If both use and dependence (moderate or severe use disorder) are documented.	Assign only the code for dependence (moderate or severe use disorder).

F14 Cocaine related disorders

F14.1 Cocaine abuse

F14.10 Cocaine abuse, uncomplicated
Cocaine use disorder, mild

F14.14 Cocaine abuse with cocaine-induced mood disorder

Cocaine use disorder, mild, with cocaine-induced bipolar or related disorder

Cocaine use disorder, mild, with cocaine-induced depressive disorder

F14.18 Cocaine abuse with other cocaine-induced disorder

F14.88 Cocaine abuse with other cocaine-induced disorder

Cocaine use disorder, mild, with cocaine-induced obsessive compulsive or related disorder

F14.2 Cocaine dependence

F14.20 Cocaine dependence, uncomplicated

Cocaine use disorder, moderate
Cocaine use disorder, severe

F14.21 Cocaine dependence, in remission

F14.24 Cocaine dependence with cocaine-induced mood disorder

Cocaine use disorder, moderate, with cocaine-induced bipolar or related disorder

Cocaine use disorder, moderate, with cocaine-induced depressive disorder

Cocaine use disorder, severe, with cocaine-induced bipolar or related disorder

Cocaine use disorder, severe, with cocaine-induced depressive disorder

An additional clinical term used to describe alcohol and substance use dependence is the patient's status related to any remission (history of alcohol and substance dependence no longer exists in DSM-5 or the ICD code set). DSM-5 characterizes alcohol and substance use disorders (mild, moderate, severe) remission status in terms of early remission or sustained remission. However, the ICD-10 code set does not recognize this further specification and continues to describe alcohol and substance dependence as in remission only. The appropriate code(s) for dependence in remission is assigned based on provider documentation (as defined in the Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting).

Summary

DSM-5 is the clinical classification system used by health care providers to diagnose mental disorders. However, prior to Oct. 1, 2016, there was a disconnect between clinical terms used to describe a patient's alcohol or substance use disorder and the clinical terms found in the ICD-10-CM Alphabetic Index and Tabular Listing. With the 2017 changes in the ICD-10-CM

code set now in effect, there is better harmonization between these two codes sets so that the alcohol and substance use clinical criteria and diagnostic terms applied by health care providers using DSM-5 can be properly coded in ICD-10-CM. However, there is still more work to be done to fully align these two classification systems, so anticipate additional changes to ICD-10-CM Chapter 5 in the coming years as further refinements are made.

References

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