



Documentation and Coding: Substance Use Disorder

Substance use disorders occur when the recurrent use of alcohol and/or drugs causes clinically significant impairment. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will reimburse for an annual alcohol misuse screening (G0442) and up to four alcohol counseling sessions (G0443) for those who have screened positive for alcohol misuse.

Documentation Tips

- » Name of substance
- » Severity: mild (abuse), moderate (dependence) or severe (dependence)
- » Description: intoxication, episodic, continuous remission or withdrawal
- » Associated psychoactive-induced disorders: anxiety, mood disorder, persisting dementia, sleep disorder, etc.
- » Action regarding the addiction, such as cessation or continued cessation of drug/alcohol use, monitoring pill counts, pain medication contract, counseling, etc.

Coding Substance Use Disorder

Abuse and dependence are no longer recognized by the American Psychiatric Association. However, these descriptions are still classified in ICD-10. All alcohol and substances are categorized as “use disorder” per DSM-5. When documenting and coding for substance use disorder, DSM-5 states to code based on the patient’s current severity:

- » **Mild:** presence of 2-3 symptoms
- » **Moderate:** Presence of 4-5 symptoms
- » **Severe:** Presence of 6 or more symptoms

ICD-10 CM Codes	Code Description
F10.10	Alcohol use disorder, mild
F10.13-	Alcohol use disorder, mild with withdrawal
F10.2-	Alcohol use disorder, moderate/severe (alcoholism)
F10.97	Alcohol use, unspecified with alcohol-induced persisting dementia
F11.1-	Opioid use disorder, mild
F11.2-	Opioid use disorder, moderate/severe
F11.93	Opioid withdrawal, without use disorder
F12.1-	Cannabis use disorder, mild
F12.120	Cannabis use disorder, mild with intoxication, uncomplicated
F12.180	Cannabis use disorder, mild, with cannabis-induced anxiety disorder
F12.2-	Cannabis use disorder, moderate/severe
F13.1-	Sedative, hypnotic or anxiolytic use disorder, mild
F13.13-	Sedative, hypnotic or anxiolytic use disorder, mild with withdrawal
F13.2-	Sedative, hypnotic or anxiolytic use disorder, moderate/severe
F18.2-	Inhalant use disorder, moderate/severe
F19.939	Other psychoactive substance use, unspecified with withdrawal
Z79.891	Long term (current) use of opiate analgesic
Z79.899	Other long term (current) drug therapy

Diagnostic Criteria of Alcohol/Substance Use Disorder

A problematic pattern of the use leading to clinically significant impairment or distress, as manifested by two or more of the following symptoms occurring within 12-month period:

- » Excessive time spent in activities necessary to obtain or use the substance or recover from its effects
- » Recurrent use resulting in a failure to fulfill major role obligations at work, school or home
- » Important social, occupational or recreational activities are given up or reduced because of substance use
- » Larger than intended quantity intake
- » Excessive time related to intake
- » Unsuccessful effort to cut down or control the substance use
- » Use is continued despite knowledge of having a persistent or recurrent physical or psychological problem that is likely to have been caused or exacerbated by the substance
- » Craving or strong desire to use
- » Recurrent use in situations in which it is physically hazardous
- » Continued use despite having persistent or recurrent social or interpersonal problems caused by exacerbated by the effects of the substance
- » Tolerance
- » Withdrawal

Note: For prescribed medication, tolerance and withdrawal are not considered as criteria if taken under appropriate medical supervision