



Substance Use/Abuse/Dependence

Clinical doc. examples series brought to you by the Aledade Coding & Documentation Improvement Team

DEPENDENCE: Physiologic dependence, tolerance and difficulty controlling usage of a substance along with problematic behaviors and ongoing usage despite harmful consequences

ABUSE: Criteria for dependence are not met, but the substance is still being used despite adverse social, occupational or health consequences

USE: Criteria for dependence or abuse are not met, but there are adverse effects from use of a substance.

REMISSION: Based on the clinician's clinical judgement and based on proper documentation

- **F10.91** Alcohol use, unspecified, in remission
- **F10.11** Alcohol abuse, in remission
- **F10.21** Alcohol Dependence, in remission
- **F11.91** Opioid use, unspecified, in remission
- **F11.11** Opioid abuse, in remission
- **F11.21** Opioid dependence, in remission
- **F12.91** Cannabis use, unspecified, in remission
- **F12.11** Cannabis abuse, in remission
- **F12.21** Cannabis dependence, in remission

Alcohol and Substance use, abuse, and dependence are likely in your office every day! Screen, intervene and make sure the condition is appropriately documented and coded according to DSM criteria for use/abuse/dependence.

Note:

Dependence ALWAYS impacts care! A dependence diagnosis initiates a follow up/outreach to the patient.

*Remember your options: Use, Abuse, Dependence, Remission

*Remember your levels: Mild, Moderate, Severe



Remember these 6 possible symptoms! If a patient has 3 or more of them = Dependence

1. A strong desire or sense of compulsion to use a substance.
2. Difficulties controlling levels of use of a substance
3. Neglect of interests because of a substance, or increased amount of time using or recovering from the effects of a substance
4. Persisting with usage of a substance despite evidence of harmful consequences, such as infections or legal troubles.
5. A physiological withdrawal state when substance use has stopped or been reduced, or use of a substance with the intention of avoiding withdrawal.
6. Tolerance

ICD-10 Coding Guidelines:

When documenting Substance use disorder,

→ Substance use disorder (SUD) requires severity - Mild, Moderate, Severe (e.g. Substance use disorder mild, unknown, codes to F19.10, other psychoactive substance abuse, uncomplicated. AND Substance use disorder, moderate or severe, unknown, codes to F19.20, Other psychoactive substance dependence, uncomplicated.)

Note: Do not code recreational marijuana use as use/ abuse/dependence unless the use is associated with physical, mental or behavioral disorder

Note: Do not report opioid use/abuse/dependence if the patient is on opioids for management of chronic pain.

Note: If a note has both use and abuse documented, assign only the code for abuse, if a note has both abuse and dependence documented, assign only the code for dependence, AND if a Note has use, abuse, and dependence documented, assign only the code for dependence.