

Molina Healthcare Coding Tips

Major Depression



Welcome to the Molina Healthcare Coding Institute.

Molina Healthcare is committed to supporting your clinical practice. Please take a moment to review this HCC Pearl.

A frequent topic in the world of Risk Adjustment is the documentation and coding of Major Depression.

The most common error is the documentation of simple “Depression,” which does not specify whether the episode is major or minor, acute or in the past.

When documenting Major Depression it is important to note **Episode & Severity**. The fourth digit designates Episode, and the fifth digit designates Severity.

V-Codes are reserved for a personal history of affective disorder or family history of mental disorder

One way to avoid the “History” of problem in patients with past depression is to use 296.x6 “in remission.”



What are the ICD-9 Codes that are used for Major Depression?

- » Major Depressive Disorder Episodes
 - 296.2x - Single Episode
 - 296.3x - Recurrent Episode
- » X (Fifth Digit) Severity
 - 0 = Unspecified
 - 1 = *Mild*
 - 2 = Moderate
 - 3 = *Severe w/o Psychotic Behavior*
 - 4 = *Severe w/ Psychotic Behavior*
 - 5 = *In Partial or Unspecified Remission*
 - 6 = *In Full Remission*

Acceptable Documentation

- » Patient is being seen for follow-up on **Major Depression, Recurrent, Moderate**.
Assessment: Responding to current medication (**Coded as 296.32, condition is documented to the highest level of specificity and supported with treatment**)
Plan: Continue care with additional supervision of a psychiatrist.
- » 45 year old Latino male with Major Depression.
Assessment: Single Episode in full remission. (**Coded as 296.26, condition is documented to the highest level of specificity and supported with treatment**)
Plan: Monitoring for recurrence

Incomplete Documentation

- » 45 year old Asian female with depression.
Assessment: Unstable (**Provider failed to document the condition to the highest level of specificity, therefore only ICD-9 311 can be reported which doesn't have a CMS value**)
Plan: Refer for Psychiatric counselling.

When Do I use V-Codes?

- » V11.1 - Personal History of Affective Disorder
- » V17.0 - Family History of Mental Disorder

Remember:

- » Consider using 296.X6 “in remission” and not “history of” with past depression. Only use 311, which is Depressive Disorder, not otherwise specified, when there is absolutely no information available on the depressive syndrome.

Have Questions?

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