

Substance use disorder or drug addiction – A disease that affects a person's brain and behavior and has an inability to control the use of legal or illegal drugs. Alcohol, marijuana, and nicotine are substances considered drugs. Drug addiction is very dangerous, when an individual is addicted, they will continue to use the drug no matter the harm the drug is doing to them.

Different Disorder Types

Dependence- A withdrawal syndrome or symptom is most likely to occur when the use of the substance is discontinued.

- In the case a drug withdrawal occurs, it will be coded as a significant comorbid clinical condition influencing the severity of the illness.

Abuse- Withdrawal symptoms are not likely to occur when substance use is discontinued.

- **Drug Abuse**- a maladaptive pattern of drug use in patients who excessively take illegal drugs but have not received a state of dependence for the drug they are using.
- **Alcohol Abuse**- a person who has excess amounts of alcohol but has not reached a state of dependency.

Pattern of use- More familiar to physicians in the psychiatric and drug rehabilitation domain.

- Continuous use of drugs-daily, alcohol- daily intake of large amounts of alcohol.
- Episodic- drugs- short periods between drug use, alcohol- binges lasting weeks or months.
- Remission- Complete cessation of alcohol or drug intake
- Unspecified- Unknown pattern type or not documented by a physician.

Signs and Symptoms

- The need to constantly use drugs or alcohol daily or several times of the day.
- Having an intense urge to use drugs or drink alcohol, nothing else matters.
- Taking the drug in higher dosages to get the same effect.
- Drinking more alcohol to get the same effect.
- Maintaining a supply of drug or alcohol
- Spending money on the drug even if the person cannot afford it.
- Not meeting responsibilities for work and obligations for recreational drug and alcohol use.
- Using the drug or alcohol knowing the harm is it afflicting.
- Unhealthy behaviors developed such as stealing to have the drug.
- Withdrawal symptoms when no longer using the drug.

Risk Factors

- Family history of addiction
- Mental health disorder
- History of mental, physical, or sexual abuse
- Peer pressure
- Lack of family involvement
- Early use
- Taking highly addictive drugs
- Stressful environment
- Poor living conditions

Diagnostic Testing

- Lab test for drug screening
- Assessment by a psychiatrist, psychologist, or licensed alcohol and drug counselor

Treatment

- Chemical dependence treatment programs
- Detoxification
- Opioid overdose
- Behavior therapy
- Self-help groups

Clinical Documentation and Coding Tips

SOAP Notes documentation tips:

- **Subjective** – Document the presence or absence of any current symptoms related to substance abuse.
- **Objective** – Document signs and symptoms or conditions and labs/test results related to the substance use.
- **Assessment** – Document drug screening results that are compatible with the ICD-10 nomenclature to the highest specificity.
- **Plan** – Document and link any medications that may be used to treat the substance use disorder and or any conditions caused by it. Detail any referrals, consultations, labs, or diagnostic testing requested. Be sure to emphasize referrals to psychiatrists, drug rehab programs, etc.

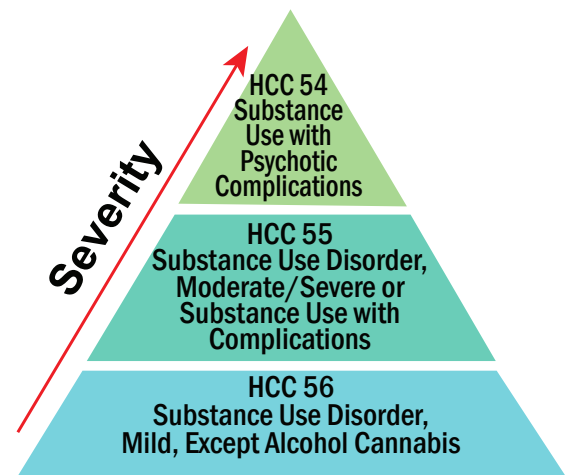
Medicare Hierarchal Condition Categories (HCC)

Hierarchical condition category (HCC) coding is a risk-adjustment model designed to estimate future health care costs for patients. This model filters ICD-10CM codes into diagnosis groups (DxGs), and then into Conditions Categories (CCs). Hierarchies or families are placed to gain an HCC numeric code, which translates to a risk adjustment factor (RAF) value. Each diagnosis code found in the model, as a stand-alone diagnosis code or within

a family or hierarchy, carries a value through RAF, but this value can change if the patient has other influencing factors such as ESRD, hospice, or are dual-eligible. Families or hierarchies set a value based on the severity of illness, with more severe diagnoses carrying the overall risk score for that family. Diagnoses within families or hierarchies are inclusive of one another, while any additional diagnoses from other hierarchies or stand-alone diagnoses are additive and increase each patient's overall risk score.

Substance abuse is a condition that falls within the category “Mental, Behavioral and Neurodevelopmental disorders” (54,55) with an average RAF Score of 0.538

Coding Substance Use Disorder



ICD 10 CM	Description
F10.210-F10.99	Alcohol dependence, abuse, use
F11.10-F11.99	Opioid dependence, abuse, use
F12.120- F12.99	Cannabis dependence, abuse, use
F13.10-F13.99	Sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic use
F14.10- F14.99	Cocaine dependence, abuse, use
F15.10- F15.99	Other stimulate dependence, abuse, use
F16.10- F16.99	Hallucinogen dependence, abuse, use
F18.10-F18.99	Inhalant dependence, abuse, use
F19.10-F19.99	Other psychoactive substance dependence, abuse, use

Always Remember

- Code to the most specificity of the substance, type of use (dependence, abuse, use), and symptoms associated with it.
- This condition is listed as a current condition, not a history.
- If both use and abuse are documented, assign only the code for abuse.
- If both abuse and dependence are documented, assign only the code for dependence.
- If use, abuse, and dependence are all documented, assign only the code for dependence.
- If both use and dependence are documented, assign only the code for dependence.