

SUBSTANCE USE, ABUSE, AND DEPENDENCE

Documentation and coding: Individual & Family Plans

For coding education questions, email CignaHealthcareHCPEducation@CignaHealthcare.com.

It's important to accurately document and code diagnoses when submitting claims for your customers with Cigna Healthcare-administered coverage. This helps ensure your diagnosis and coding practices comply with all applicable legal requirements,¹ while enabling us to provide our customers with the benefits and resources they need.

The information that follows is designed to provide guidance for the documentation and coding of claims for your patients with a substance use disorder. It is not meant to replace your judgment when caring for your patients.

Definitions and criteria²

Substance use disorder (SUD) in DSM-5³ includes several substances, such as opioids and stimulants.

A diagnosis of SUD requires two of the following criteria occurring within a 12-month period:

- Drug is often taken in larger amounts or over a longer period than was intended.
- There is a persistent desire or unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control use.
- Much time is spent in activities to obtain or use the drug, or recovering from its effects.
- There is a strong desire or urge to use the drug.
- Recurrent drug use has resulted in failing to fulfill major role obligations at work, school, or home.
- Drug use continues despite persistent or recurrent social or interpersonal problems caused or exacerbated by the effects of the drug.
- Important social, occupational, or recreational activities are given up or reduced due to drug use.
- The drug is recurrently used in situations in which it is physically hazardous.
- Drug use is continued despite knowing a persistent or recurrent physical or psychological problem that is likely caused or exacerbated by the drug.
- Tolerance is manifested by either of the following:
 - A need for markedly increased amounts of the drug to achieve intoxication or desired effect.
 - A markedly diminished effect with continued use of the same amount of the drug.
- Withdrawal is manifested by either of the following:
 - The characteristic withdrawal syndrome for the drug (refer to DSM-5 for further withdrawal information).

- The drug (or a closely related substance) is taken to relieve or avoid withdrawal symptoms.

Note: Withdrawal criteria does not apply to hallucinogens or inhalants.

Severity of SUD

DSM-5 severity specifiers are based on the number of diagnostic criteria met by the patient at the time of diagnosis:

- Mild – Two to three criteria (use)
- Moderate – Four to five criteria (abuse)
- Severe – Six or more criteria (dependence)

Documentation and coding

- Document diagnostic statements that are compatible with the ICD-10-CM⁴ nomenclature.
- Determine if psychoactive substance use is associated with a substance-related disorder or medical condition.
- Document findings to support the diagnosis with any manifestations.
- Code additional secondary diagnoses such as depression or anxiety.
- Use additional codes to describe comorbid conditions or medical complications (e.g., liver disease or neurological diseases such as dementia).
- Confirm the clinician has signed and dated the face-to-face or telehealth encounter. Include the printed version of the clinician's full name and credentials (e.g., MD, DO, NP, PA).
- Document a treatment plan, which is required to be considered an active medical problem. A treatment plan can be in the form of a medication, referral, diet, or monitoring.

¹ Diagnosis inaccuracies that are not addressed can result in administrative sanctions and potential financial penalties.

² "Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders." American Psychiatric Association. 2013. Retrieved from https://www.Psychiatry.org/File%20Library/Psychiatrists/Practice/DSM/APA_DSM-5-Substance-Use-Disorder.pdf.

³ Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition.

⁴ International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification.



Opioid use, abuse, dependence

ICD-10 code	Opioid:	Additional characters to use
F11.10	Abuse, uncomplicated	
F11.20	Dependence, uncomplicated	
F11.90	Use, unspecified, uncomplicated	
F11.11	Abuse, in remission	
F11.21	Dependence, in remission	
F11.91	Unspecified, in remission	
F11.12-	Abuse with intoxication	(-) Add 6th character: 0 – Uncomplicated 1 – Delirium 2 – Perceptual disturbance 9 – Unspecified
F11.22-	Dependence with intoxication	
F11.92-	Use, unspecified, with intoxication	
F11.13	Abuse with withdrawal	
F11.23	Dependence with withdrawal	
F11.93	Use, unspecified, with withdrawal	

ICD-10 code	Opioid:	Additional characters to use
F11.14	Abuse with opioid-induced mood disorder	
F11.24	Dependence with opioid-induced mood disorder	
F11.94	Use, unspecified, with opioid-induced mood disorder	
F11.15-	Abuse with opioid-induced psychotic disorder	(-) Add 6th character: 0 – Delusions 1 – Hallucinations 9 – Unspecified
F11.25-	Dependence with opioid-induced psychotic disorder	
F11.95-	Use, unspecified with opioid-induced psychotic disorder	
F11.18-	Abuse with other opioid-induced disorder	(-) Add 6th character: 1 – Sexual dysfunction 2 – Sleep disorder 8 – Other disorder
F11.28-	Dependence with other opioid-induced disorder	
F11.98-	Use, unspecified, with other specified opioid-induced disorder	
11.19	Abuse with unspecified opioid-induced disorder	
11.29	Dependence with unspecified opioid-induced disorder	
11.99	Use, unspecified, with unspecified opioid-induced disorder	

Cannabis use, abuse, dependence

ICD-10 code	Cannabis:	Additional characters to use
F12.10	Abuse, uncomplicated	
F12.20	Dependence, uncomplicated	
F12.90	Use, unspecified, uncomplicated	
F12.11	Abuse, in remission	
F12.21	Dependence, in remission	
F12.91	Use, in remission	
F12.12-	Abuse with intoxication	(-) Add 6th character: 0 – Uncomplicated 1 – Delirium 2 – Perceptual disturbance 9 – Unspecified
F12.22-	Dependence with intoxication	
F12.92-	Use, unspecified, with intoxication	
F12.13	Abuse with withdrawal	
F12.23	Dependence with withdrawal	

ICD-10 code	Cannabis:	Additional characters to use
F12.93	Use, unspecified, with withdrawal	
F12.15-	Abuse with psychotic disorder	(-) Add 6th character: 0 – Delusions 1 – Hallucinations 9 – Unspecified
F12.25-	Dependence with psychotic disorder	
F12.95-	Use, unspecified, with psychotic disorder	
F12.18-	Abuse with other cannabis-induced disorder	(-) Add 6th character: 0 – Anxiety disorder 8 – Other disorder
F12.28-	Dependence with other cannabis-induced disorder	
F12.98-	Use, unspecified, with other cannabis-induced disorder	
F12.19	Abuse with unspecified cannabis-induced disorder	
F12.29	Dependence with unspecified cannabis-induced disorder	
F12.99	Use, unspecified, with unspecified cannabis-induced disorder	

Sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic use, abuse, dependence

ICD-10 code	Sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic:	Additional characters to use	ICD-10 code	Sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic:	Additional characters to use
F13.10	Abuse, uncomplicated		F13.94	Use, unspecified, with sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic-induced mood disorder	
F13.20	Dependence, uncomplicated		F13.15-	Abuse with sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic-induced psychotic disorder	(-) Add 6th character: 0 – Delusions 1 – Hallucinations 9 – Unspecified
F13.90	Use, uncomplicated		F13.25-	Dependence with sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic-induced psychotic disorder	
F13.11	Abuse, in remission		F13.95-	Use, unspecified, with sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic-induced psychotic disorder	
F13.21	Dependence, in remission		F13.26	Dependence with sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic-induced persisting amnesic disorder	
F13.91	Use, unspecified, in remission		F13.96	Use, unspecified, with sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic-induced persisting amnesic disorder	
F13.12-	Abuse with intoxication	(-) Add 6th character: 0 – Uncomplicated 1 – Delirium 9 – Unspecified	F13.27	Dependence with sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic-induced persisting dementia	
F13.22-	Dependence with intoxication		F13.97	Use, unspecified, with sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic-induced persisting dementia	
F13.92-	Use, unspecified, with intoxication		F13.18-	Abuse with other sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic-induced disorders	(-) Add 6th character: 0 – Anxiety disorder 1 – Sexual dysfunction 2 – Sleep disorder 8 – Other disorder
F13.13-	Abuse with withdrawal	(-) Add 6th character: 0 – Uncomplicated 1 – Delirium 2 – Perceptual disturbance 9 – Unspecified	F13.28-	Dependence with other sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic-induced disorders	
F13.23-	Dependence with withdrawal		F13.98-	Use, unspecified, with other sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic-induced disorders	
F13.93-	Use, unspecified, with withdrawal.		F13.19	Abuse with unspecified sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic-induced disorder	
F13.14	Abuse with sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic-induced mood disorder		F13.29	Dependence with unspecified sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic-induced disorder	
F13.24	Dependence with sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic-induced mood disorder		F13.99	Use, unspecified, with unspecified sedative, hypnotic, or anxiolytic-induced disorder	

Cocaine use, abuse, dependence

ICD-10 code	Cocaine:	Additional characters to use	ICD-10 code	Cocaine:	Additional characters to use
F14.10	Abuse, uncomplicated		F14.14	Abuse with cocaine-induced mood disorder	
F14.20	Dependence, uncomplicated		F14.24	Dependence with cocaine-induced mood disorder	
F14.90	Use, unspecified, uncomplicated		F14.94	Use, unspecified, with cocaine-induced mood disorder	

Cocaine use, abuse, dependence (continued)

ICD-10 code	Cocaine:	Additional characters to use
F14.11	Abuse, in remission	
F14.21	Dependence, in remission	
F14.91	Use, unspecified, in remission	
F14.12-	Abuse with intoxication	(-) Add 6th character: 0 – Uncomplicated 1 – Delirium 2 – Perceptual disturbance 9 – Unspecified
F14.22-	Dependence with intoxication	
F14.92-	Use, unspecified, with intoxication	
F14.13	Abuse with withdrawal	
F14.23	Dependence with withdrawal	
F14.93	Use, unspecified, with withdrawal	

ICD-10 code	Cocaine:	Additional characters to use
F14.15-	Abuse with cocaine-induced psychotic disorder	(-) Add 6th character: 0 – Delusions 1 – Hallucinations 9 – Unspecified
F14.25-	Dependence with cocaine-induced psychotic disorder	
F14.95-	Use, unspecified, with cocaine-induced psychotic disorder	
F14.18-	Abuse with other cocaine-induced disorder	(-) Add 6th character: 0 – Anxiety disorder 1 – Sexual dysfunction 2 – Sleep disorder 8 – Other disorder
F14.28-	Dependence with other cocaine-induced disorder	
F14.98-	Use, unspecified, with other cocaine-induced disorder	
F14.19	Abuse with unspecified cocaine-induced disorder	
F14.29	Dependence with unspecified cocaine-induced disorder	
F14.99	Use, unspecified, with unspecified cocaine-induced disorder	

Other stimulant use, abuse, dependence

ICD-10 code	Other stimulant:	Additional characters to use
F15.10	Abuse, uncomplicated	
F15.20	Dependence, uncomplicated	
F15.90	Use, unspecified, uncomplicated	
F15.11	Abuse, in remission	
F15.21	Dependence, in remission	
F15.91	Use, unspecified, in remission	
F15.12	Abuse with intoxication	(-) Add 6th character: 0 – Uncomplicated 1 – Delirium 2 – Perceptual disturbance 9 – Unspecified
F15.22	Dependence with intoxication	
F15.92	Use, unspecified, with intoxication	
F15.13	Abuse with withdrawal	
F15.23	Dependence with withdrawal	
F15.93	Use, unspecified, with withdrawal	

ICD-10 code	Other stimulant:	Additional characters to use
F15.14	Abuse with stimulant-induced mood disorder	
F15.24	Dependence with stimulant-induced mood disorder	
F15.94	Use, unspecified, with stimulant-induced mood disorder	
F15.15	Abuse with stimulant-induced psychotic disorder	(-) Add 6th character: 0 – Delusions 1 – Hallucinations 9 – Unspecified
F15.25	Dependence with stimulant-induced psychotic disorder	
F15.95	Use, unspecified, with stimulant-induced psychotic disorder	
F15.18	Abuse with other stimulant-induced disorder	(-) Add 6th character: 0 – Anxiety disorder 1 – Sexual dysfunction 2 – Sleep disorder 8 – Other disorder
F15.28	Dependence with other stimulant-induced disorder	
F15.98	Use, unspecified, with other stimulant-induced disorder	
F15.19	Abuse with unspecified stimulant-induced disorder	
F15.29	Dependence with unspecified stimulant-induced disorder	
F15.99	Use, unspecified, with unspecified stimulant-induced disorder	

Hallucinogen use, abuse, dependence

ICD-10 code	Hallucinogen:	Additional characters to use
F16.10	Abuse, uncomplicated	
F16.20	Dependence, uncomplicated	
F16.90	Use, unspecified, uncomplicated	
F16.11	Abuse, in remission	
F16.21	Dependence, in remission	
F16.91	Use, unspecified, in remission	
F16.12-	Abuse with intoxication	(-) Add 6th character: 0 – Uncomplicated 1 – Delirium 2 – Perceptual disturbance (<i>only with abuse</i>) 9 – Unspecified
F16.22-	Dependence with intoxication	
F16.92-	Use, unspecified, with intoxication	
F16.14	Abuse with hallucinogen-induced mood disorder	
F16.24	Dependence with hallucinogen-induced mood disorder.	

ICD-10 code	Hallucinogen:	Additional characters to use
F16.94	Use, unspecified, with hallucinogen-induced mood disorder	
F16.15-	Abuse with hallucinogen-induced psychotic disorder	(-) Add 6th character: 0 – Delusions 1 – Hallucinations 9 – Unspecified
F16.25-	Dependence with hallucinogen-induced psychotic disorder	
F16.95-	Use, unspecified, with hallucinogen-induced psychotic disorder	
F16.18-	Abuse with other hallucinogen-induced disorder	(-) Add 6th character: 0 – Anxiety disorder 1 – Persisting perception disorder (flashbacks) 8 – Other disorder
F16.28-	Dependence with other hallucinogen-induced disorder	
F16.98-	Use, unspecified, with other hallucinogen-induced disorder	
F16.19	Abuse with unspecified hallucinogen-induced disorder	
F16.29	Dependence with unspecified hallucinogen-induced disorder	
F16.99	Use, unspecified, with unspecified hallucinogen-induced disorder	

Inhalant use, abuse, dependence

ICD-10 code	Inhalant:	Additional characters to use
F18.10	Abuse, uncomplicated	
F18.20	Dependence, uncomplicated	
F18.90	Use, unspecified, uncomplicated	
F18.11	Abuse, in remission	
F18.21	Dependence, in remission	
F18.91	Use, unspecified, in remission	
F18.12-	Abuse with intoxication	(-) Add 6th character: 0 – Uncomplicated 1 – Delirium 9 – Unspecified
F18.22-	Dependence with intoxication	
F18.92-	Use, unspecified, with intoxication	
F18.14	Abuse with inhalant-induced mood disorder	
F18.24	Dependence with inhalant-induced mood disorder	
F18.94	Use, unspecified, with inhalant-induced mood disorder	

ICD-10 code	Inhalant:	Additional characters to use
F18.15-	Abuse with inhalant-induced psychotic disorder	(-) Add 6th character: 0 – Delusions 1 – Hallucinations 9 – Unspecified
F18.25-	Dependence with inhalant-induced psychotic disorder	
F18.95-	Use, unspecified, with inhalant-induced psychotic disorder	
F18.17	Abuse with inhalant-induced dementia	
F18.27	Dependence with inhalant-induced dementia	
F18.97	Use, unspecified, with inhalant-induced dementia	
F18.18-	Abuse with other inhalant-induced disorder	(-) Add 6th character: 0 – Anxiety disorder 9 – Unspecified
F18.28-	Dependence with other inhalant-induced disorder	
F18.98-	Use, unspecified, with other inhalant-induced disorder	
F18.19	Abuse with unspecified inhalant-induced disorder	
F18.29	Dependence with unspecified inhalant-induced disorder	
F18.99	Dependence, unspecified, with unspecified inhalant-induced disorder	

Other psychoactive substance use, abuse, dependence

ICD-10 code	Other psychoactive substance:	Additional characters to use	ICD-10 code	Other psychoactive substance:	Additional characters to use
F19.10	Abuse, uncomplicated		F19.15-	Abuse with psychoactive substance-induced psychotic disorder	(-) Add 6th character: 0 – Delusions 1 – Hallucinations 9 – Unspecified
F19.20	Dependence, uncomplicated		F19.25-	Dependence with psychoactive substance-induced psychotic disorder	
F19.90	Use, unspecified, uncomplicated		F19.95-	Use, unspecified, with psychoactive substance-induced psychotic disorder	
F19.11	Abuse, in remission		F19.16	Abuse with psychoactive substance-induced persisting amnesic disorder	
F19.21	Dependence, in remission		F19.26	Dependence with psychoactive substance-induced persisting amnesic disorder	
F19.91	Use, unspecified, in remission		F19.96	Use, unspecified, with psychoactive substance-induced persisting amnesic disorder	
F19.12-	Abuse with intoxication	(-) Add 6th character: 0 – Uncomplicated 1 – Delirium 2 – Perceptual disturbance 9 – Unspecified	F19.17	Abuse with psychoactive substance-induced persisting dementia	
F19.22-	Dependence with intoxication		F19.27	Dependence with psychoactive substance-induced persisting dementia	
F19.92-	Use, unspecified, with intoxication		F19.97	Use, unspecified, with psychoactive substance-induced persisting dementia	
F19.13-	Abuse with withdrawal		F19.18-	Abuse with other psychoactive substance-induced disorders	(-) Add 6th character: 0 – Anxiety disorder 1 – Sexual dysfunction 8 – Other disorder
F19.23-	Dependence with withdrawal		F19.28-	Dependence with other psychoactive substance-induced disorders	
F19.93-	Use, unspecified, with withdrawal		F19.98-	Use, unspecified, with other psychoactive substance-induced disorders	
F19.14	Abuse with psychoactive substance-induced mood disorder		F19.19	Abuse with unspecified psychoactive substance-induced disorder	
F19.24	Dependence with psychoactive substance-induced mood disorder		F19.29	Dependence with unspecified psychoactive substance-induced disorder	
F19.94	Use, unspecified, with psychoactive substance-induced mood disorder		F19.99	Use, unspecified, with unspecified psychoactive substance-induced disorder	

