

ICD-10 Coding Updated for Rehabilitation

Every year there are ICD-10 updates that become effective 10/1/2020 (72,616 updated codes for 2021!). Most of these ICD-10 codes have new coding guidelines that change the sequencing of codes related to COVID-19. Even though we don't assign medical diagnoses in rehabilitation, we still need to understand the coding guidelines to ensure we are assigning the appropriate ICD-10 code on our treatment plans.

The new coding guidelines and changes that will go into place when using COVID-19 as a medical diagnosis effective 10/1/2020 are:

Coding Guidelines	ICD-10
Confirmed diagnosis as documentation of positive test result by provider	U07.1 COVID-19
"Suspected, possible, probably, or inconclusive"	DO NOT use U07.1 COVID-19 Assign signs and symptoms reported
Sequencing of ICD-10--when it meets definition of principle diagnosis (unless guidelines require certain codes sequenced first—sepsis or transplant complications)	Assign U07.1 COVID-19
Acute respiratory manifestations of COVID-19 is reason for encounter	Use U07.1 COVID-19 as principle diagnosis (Assign respiratory manifestations as secondary codes) J12.89 Other viral pneumonia J96.0 Acute respiratory failure
Non respiratory manifestations of COVID-19—assign manifestations as additional diagnosis	Use U07.1 as principal/first-listed diagnosis
Asymptomatic with actual or suspected exposure to COVID-19	Use Z20.828 Contact with and (suspected) exposure to other viral communicable disease
Symptomatic with actual or suspected exposure to COVID-19 and infections has been ruled out or test results are inconclusive or unknown	Use Z20.898 Contact with and (suspected) exposure to COVID-19 to other viral communicable disease
Personal history of COVID-19	Z86.19 Personal history of other infectious and parasitic diseases

When therapist are choosing the appropriate treatment diagnosis they need to follow the guidelines listed below:

- Assess impairment/s and document your findings
- Establish and document related short and long term goals
- Select the treatment code/s and check definitions to ensure they match the impairments (Make sure selected codes are MAC approved if applicable)
- ICD-10 codes chosen must meet medical necessary, appropriate and relate to the therapy discipline specific service
- Code to the highest level of specificity
- Code all diagnoses that impact rehab
- Sequence the codes in order of amount and complexity of care provided
- Try to avoid unspecified codes