

Risk Coding Tips and Tools

Alzheimer's Disease

Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia and accurately documenting the condition is vital to allow correct diagnosis codes to be captured.

When addressing Alzheimer's disease with early or late onset, if a behavioral disturbance is present, the specific disturbance (such as agitation, mood disturbance, or anxiety) should be documented.

! In order to code for Alzheimer's disease, the term "Alzheimer's" must be stated in the documentation. Avoid using the following terms with a confirmed diagnosis:

- Possible
- Likely
- Memory loss
- Cognitive impairment

Physician Documentation Example

Example 1:

A 72-year-old male patient comes in for a follow-up with memory loss. He was diagnosed with dementia and Donepezil was prescribed.

Provider coded: ☒

- G30.9 Alzheimer's disease, unspecified
- F02.80 Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, unspecified severity, without behavioral disturbance, psychotic disturbance, mood disturbance, and anxiety
- Alzheimer's disease is not mentioned in the note, so it should not be coded

Appropriate diagnosis assignment for the condition: ☒

- Dementia, unspecified (F03.90)

Example 2:

A 68-year-old female patient comes in for routine follow-up. The patient is stable and has an upcoming appointment with her neurologist. Dementia with agitation due to late onset of Alzheimer's disease. Medications were sent to pharmacy on file, follow-up in one month.

Provider coded: ☒

- G30.1 Alzheimer's disease with late onset
- F02.11 Dementia in other diseases classified elsewhere, unspecified severity, with agitation

AAPC. (2025). ICD-10 Code for Alzheimer's disease, unspecified—G30.9—Codify by AAPC. <https://www.aapc.com/codes/icd-10-codes/G30.9?msockid=14a77ee6225a6eb707b56bb223736fce>

GuideWell. (2024). June 2024 coding newsletter—Alzheimer's.

<https://files.guidewell.com/m/619ea8a2457ed6b2/original/providers-programs-risk-adjustment-medicare-alzheimers.pdf>

Hiacode. (2024). ICD-10-CM coding for Alzheimer's disease. <https://hiacode.com/blog/education/defining-coding-alzheimers-disease>

You can find this resource and others like it in the OHN Risk Coding Corner at www.OrlandoHealth.com/Network/Resources.

You can also contact us at RiskCoding@OrlandoHealth.com for additional questions or support needs.