



Western Australian Coding Rule

1218/11 Drug and alcohol use at the time of injury

WA Coding Rule 1116/04 *Drug and alcohol use at the time of injury* is superseded by ACCD Coding Rule **Z72.2 Drug use** (Ref No: Q3295) effective 1 January 2019; (log in to view on the [ACCD CLIP portal](#)).

DECISION

WA Coding Rule 1116/04 *Drug and alcohol use at the time of injury* is retired.

[Effective 1 Jan 2019, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 10th Ed.]



Western Australian Coding Rule

1116/04 Drug and alcohol use at the time of injury

Q.

Should a code be assigned when a patient is under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of injury?

A.

Coding Matters December 2008, below, has been retired.

Drug and alcohol

Q: If alcohol involvement has necessitated an admission to hospital for treatment of an injury but no blood alcohol level is documented, what code should be used?

A: Category Y91 Evidence of alcohol involvement determined by level of intoxication is not to be used for inpatient morbidity coding as per ACS 0503 *Drug, alcohol and tobacco use disorders*. In the scenario cited to indicate that alcohol was involved, Z72.1 Alcohol use may be assigned if the patient was affected by alcohol at the time of the injury and no blood alcohol level has been documented.

(Coding Matters December 2008 Volume 15, Number 3)

Where the patient's alcohol or drug use is part of the diagnostic statement as an underlying cause of the injury, Z72.1 Alcohol use or Z72.2 Drug use should be assigned as an additional diagnosis. e.g. 'brawl – ETOH – facial injury'; 'fractured tibia and fibula, fall due to alcohol intoxication'. As per the Excludes notes under Z72.1 and Z72.2, these codes should not be assigned if a corresponding F code is assigned in the same episode.

If documentation indicates that the patient was under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the injury but this has not been documented as an underlying cause, a Z code should not be assigned.

F codes for harmful use of drugs or alcohol should only be assigned if documentation that satisfies criteria in ACS 0503 *Drug, alcohol and tobacco use disorders* is present (e.g. harmful use, abuse, use disorder, intoxication, dependence, withdrawal). The injury is not a direct pharmacological effect of the drug or alcohol.

DECISION

Where drug or alcohol use is part of the diagnostic statement as an underlying cause of the injury, Z72.1 Alcohol use or Z72.2 Drug use should be assigned as an additional diagnosis.

If documentation indicates that the patient was under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the injury but this has not been documented as an underlying cause, a Z code should not be assigned.

F codes for harmful use of drugs or alcohol should only be assigned if documentation that satisfies criteria in ACS 0503 Drug, alcohol and tobacco use disorders is present (e.g. harmful use, abuse, use disorder, intoxication, dependence, withdrawal).

[Effective 23 November 2016, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 9th Ed.]