

Coding and Documentation Tips for Major Depressive Disorder

ICD-10-CM classifies depression by episodes and types. When documenting major depressive disorder, it is important to document the episode (single or recurrent), the severity (mild, moderate, or severe with and without psychotic features) and the clinical status of the current episode (in partial or full remission).

Episode		ICD-10-CM		Severity
Single	Major depressive disorder (mild)	F32.0		Mild
Recurrent		F33.0		
Single	Major depressive disorder (moderate)	F32.1		Moderate
Recurrent		F33.1		
Single	Major depressive disorder (severe)	F32.2		Severe without psychotic features
Recurrent		F33.2		
Single	Major depressive disorder (severe with psychotic features)	F32.3		Severe with psychotic features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With mood-congruent psychotic symptoms With mood-incongruent psychotic symptoms With psychotic symptoms Psychogenic depressive psychosis Psychotic depression Reactive depressive psychosis
Recurrent	Major depressive disorder (severe with psychotic features)	F33.3 →		
Recurrent	Major depressive disorder	F33.40		In remission, unspecified
Single	Major depressive disorder	F32.4		In partial remission
Recurrent		F33.41		
Single	Major depressive disorder	F32.5		In full remission
Recurrent		F33.42		
Single	Major depressive disorder	F32.9		Unspecified
Recurrent	Major depressive disorder	F33.9		Unspecified
Other	Other depressive episodes	F32.8-		F32.81 Premenstrual dysphoric disorder F32.89 Atypical depression F32.89 Post-schizophrenic depression F32.89 Single episode of “masked” depression
	Depression, unspecified	F32.A		F32.A Depression, unspecified, NOS, depressive disorder

Patient Health Questionnaire-9 (PHQ-9) Depression Screening Score

Total Score	Depression Severity
1–4	Minimal depression
5–9	Mild depression
10–14	Moderate depression
15–19	Moderately severe depression
20–27	Severe depression

DSM-5 Criteria for Major Depressive Disorder

Five or more symptoms that must persist most of the day or daily for at least two weeks in a row. A change from functioning, depressed mood and/or loss of interest/pleasure must be present, excluding symptoms clearly attributable to another medical condition.

1. Depressed mood — Most of the day, nearly every day. May be subjective (e.g., feeling sad, empty, hopeless) or observed by others (e.g., appears tearful).
2. Loss of interest/pleasure — Markedly diminished interest/pleasure in all or almost all activities most of the day nearly every day. May be subjective or observed by others.
3. Weight loss or gain — Significant weight loss (without dieting) or gain (change of >5% body weight in a month) or decrease or increase in appetite nearly every day.
4. Insomnia or hypersomnia — Nearly every day.
5. Psychomotor agitation or retardation — Nearly every day and observable by others (not merely subjectively restless or slow).
6. Fatigue — Loss of energy nearly every day.
7. Feeling worthless or excessive/inappropriate guilt — Nearly every day; guilt may be delusional; not merely self-reproach or guilt about being sick.
8. Decreased concentration — Nearly every day; may be indecisiveness; may be subjective or observed by others.
9. Thoughts of death/suicide — Recurrent thoughts of death (not just fear of dying), recurrent suicidal ideation without a specific plan, suicidal attempt or a specific plan for suicide.

Coding Scenario:

80-year-old female patient presenting with recurrent major depressive disorder severe without psychosis. Continue Paxil and refer to psychiatrist.

F33.2 Major depressive disorder, recurrent, severe without psychotic features

References:

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