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Depression

DOCUMENTATION AND CODING

According to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIH), Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) is the most common mental health disorder in the U.S.¹ MDD can have a substantial impact on patients and interfere with the functions of daily living. MDD can also increase the risk of serious chronic conditions and increase mortality.

Include in medical record

When documenting depression to the highest level of specificity, include:

- Severity: mild, moderate, or severe.
- Single episode: can experience only once during lifetime.
- Recurrent episode: when an interval of at least two consecutive months between separate episodes occurs.
- In remission: actively being treated for major depressive disorder (MDD).
- Partial remission: when occasional symptoms from previous MDD episode occur without meeting full criteria for MDD.
- Full remission: no significant signs or symptoms of the disturbance present during the past two months.

MDD symptoms	
Depressed mood	Fatigue or loss of energy
Loss of interest in most activities	Thoughts of worthlessness
Significant weight loss or gain	Poor concentration or indecisiveness
Insomnia or hypersomnia	Inappropriate feelings or guilt
Psychomotor agitation or retardation	Recurrent thoughts of suicide or death

PHQ-9 assessment:

Total score	Depression severity
0-4	None or minimal
5-9	Mild
10-14	Moderate
15-19	Moderately severe
20-27	Severe

Coding information

Coding major depressive disorders:

ICD-10-CM code ²	Condition
F32.xx-	Major depressive disorder, single episode (add severity or remission status).
F32.89	Other specified depressive episodes.
F32.9	Major depressive disorder, single episode, unspecified.
F32.A	Depression, unspecified.
F33.xx-	Major depressive disorder, recurrent (add severity or remission status).
F33.8	Other recurrent depressive disorders.
F33.9	Major depressive disorder, recurrent, unspecified.
Z13.31	Encounter for screening for depression.

Coding bipolar, mood and personality disorders:

ICD-10-CM code	Condition
F20.xx-	Schizophrenia.
F20.89	Other schizophrenia.
F20.9	Schizophrenia, unspecified.
F21	Schizotypal disorder
F22	Delusional disorders.
F23	Brief psychotic disorder.
F24	Shared psychotic disorder.
F25.xx-	Schizoaffective disorder.
F25.8	Other schizoaffective disorders.
F25.9	Schizoaffective disorder, unspecified.
F28	Other psychotic disorder not due to substance or known physiological condition.
F29	Unspecified psychosis not due to a substance or known physiological condition.
F31.xx-	Bipolar disorder, current episode (add severity or remission status).
F31.81	Bipolar II disorder.

ICD-10-CM code	Condition
F31.89	Other bipolar disorder.
F31.9	Bipolar disorder, unspecified.
F34.xx-	Mood disorder.
F39	Unspecified mood disorder.
F44.xx-	Dissociative disorder.
F48.1	Depersonalization-derealization syndrome.
F53.1	Puerperal psychosis.
F60.xx-	Personality disorder.
F60.89	Other specific personality disorders.
F60.9	Personality disorder, unspecified.
R41.84	Other specific cognitive deficit.
R41.85	Anosognosia.

Tips for success

For personality disorder, identify:

- Type – narcissistic, borderline, schizoid, antisocial.

For bipolar disorder, identify:

- Type – I or II.
- Severity – mild, moderate, or severe.
- Episode type – hypomanic, manic, depressed, or in remission.

¹National Institute of Mental Health. 2026. Major Depression. [Major Depression - National Institute of Mental Health \(NIMH\)](#)

²ICD-10-CM created by the National Center for Health Statistics, under authorization of the World Health Organization (WHO) -copyright 2026. All rights reserved.

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