

Commercial	Exchange	Medicare
		✓



Seizures and Epilepsy

DOCUMENTATION AND CODING

Epilepsy is a brain disorder that causes people to have recurring seizures and is the fourth most common neurological disorder in the world.¹ Seizures result from abnormal brain electrical activity, sometimes triggered by external factors; however, a single event is not epilepsy.

Include in medical record

When documenting seizures or epilepsy to the highest level of specificity, include:

- Type: seizure disorder or epilepsy
- Complications: physical, psychological, or social issues
- Status: with or without status epilepticus
- Level of control: intractable or not intractable
- Associated factors: alcohol or drug use, febrile or trauma
- Treatment: medications or specialist referrals

Coding information

Coding for seizures:

ICD-10-CM code ²	Description
G40.411	Grand mal seizure, intractable, with status epilepticus.
G40.409	Grand mal seizure, not intractable, without status epilepticus.
R56.01	Complex febrile seizure.

Coding for epilepsy:

ICD-10-CM code	Description
G40.311	Generalized seizure, idiopathic, intractable with status epilepticus.
G40.309	Generalized seizure, idiopathic, not intractable, without status epilepticus.
G40.B09	Juvenile myoclonic epilepsy, not intractable, without status epilepticus.
A52.19	Epilepsy due to syphilis.

¹Epilepsy Foundation. 2026. What is epilepsy? [What Is Epilepsy? | Epilepsy Foundation](#)

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

Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa, Wellmark Health Plan of Iowa, Inc., Wellmark Advantage Health Plan, Inc. and Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Dakota are independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.