

Major Depression

It is important to accurately document and code depression-related conditions

Documentation

Documentation of behavioral conditions is challenging, especially for depression. Nevertheless, psychiatric conditions often affect the health and wellness of the patient and influence how well the patient may comply with any treatment plan. This further highlights the importance of appropriately capturing the patient's condition.

When documenting depression, it is imperative to include:

- **Episode** (single or recurrent)
 - **Severity** (mild, moderate, or severe with or without psychotic features)
 - **Status** (not in remission, partial remission, or full remission)
 - **Treatment Plan** (e.g. medications, psychotherapy)
- ▷ 2 months with no symptoms or the near absence of symptoms is generally regarded as defining remission from the depressive episode
 - ▷ If the episode resolves and no longer requires treatment, any new episodes of depression would be considered recurrent
 - ▷ Document the patient's depression, even if the manifestations are well-controlled with medication or active psychotherapy

Major depressive disorder, single episode: F32-

Code	Description
F32.0	Major depressive disorder, single episode, mild
F32.1*	Major depressive disorder, single episode, moderate
F32.2*	Major depressive disorder, single episode, severe, without psychotic features
F32.3*	Major depressive disorder, single episode, severe, with psychotic features
F32.4	Major depressive disorder, single episode, in partial remission
F32.5	Major depressive disorder, single episode, in full remission

Major depressive disorder, recurrent episode: F33-

Code	Description
F33.0	Major depressive disorder, recurrent, mild
F33.1*	Major depressive disorder, recurrent, moderate
F33.2*	Major depressive disorder, recurrent, severe, without psychotic features
F33.3*	Major depressive disorder, recurrent, severe, with psychotic features
F33.40	Major depressive disorder, recurrent, in remission, unspecified
F33.41	Major depressive disorder, recurrent, in partial remission
F33.42	Major depressive disorder, recurrent, in full remission
F33.8	Other recurrent depressive disorders
F33.9	Major depressive disorder, recurrent, unspecified

"Major depression, unspecified" versus "Depression, unspecified"

If the provider has documented only "depression" or "depressive disorder," the correct code is F32.A (Depression, unspecified). Code F32.9 requires that the provider document "Major depressive disorder, single episode, unspecified."

D.S.P. – Document the Condition

Proper documentation requires these three elements be addressed for each condition

D Diagnosis What condition does the patient have? Document the specific diagnosis, type, and any underlying cause or associated conditions.	S Status What is the current state of the condition? Document the current status, test results, disease progression/regression, and response to treatment	P Plan What is being done to manage the condition? Document the care plan, prescribed medications, referrals, counseling, and lifestyle guidance.
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NOTE: This tool is intended to assist with documentation only and not intended to take the place of clinical analysis.