

ICD-10-CM: Adverse Effects, Poisoning, Underdosing and Toxic Effects – T36-T65

In ICD-10-CM, coding of adverse effects, poisonings and toxic effects is nothing new, although often times defining the differences can be confusing, making the coding more difficult. Underdosing, however, is a new concept in ICD-10-CM and the coding guidelines associated with this condition are very different.

A review of the Guidelines helps clarify these concepts. We'll start with the overview:

ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2015 I., C., 19., e Adverse Effects, Poisoning, Underdosing and Toxic Effects

Codes in categories T36-T65 are combination codes that include the substance that was taken as well as the intent. No additional external cause code is required for poisonings, toxic effects, adverse effects and underdosing codes.

- Do not code directly from the Table of Drugs and Chemicals. Always refer back to the Tabular List.
- Use as many codes as necessary to describe completely all drugs, medicinal or biological substances.
- If the same code would describe the causative agent for more than one adverse reaction, poisoning, toxic effect or underdosing, assign the code only once.
- If two or more drugs, medicinal or biological substances are reported, code each individually unless a combination code is listed in the Table of Drugs and Chemicals.

Now let's look specifically at each of the topics.

Adverse Effect

ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2015 I., C., 19., e., 5., (a) Adverse Effect

When coding an adverse effect of a drug that has been correctly prescribed and properly administered, assign the appropriate code for the nature of the adverse effect followed by the appropriate code for the adverse effect of the drug (T36-T50). The code for the drug should have a 5th or 6th character "5" (for example T36.0X5-). Examples of the nature of an adverse effect are tachycardia, delirium, gastrointestinal hemorrhaging, vomiting, hypokalemia, hepatitis, renal failure, or respiratory failure.

Now we have been given directions on how to determine if there has been an adverse effect and the sequencing of the codes, let's practice. We will only work through the adverse effect coding.

Adverse Effect

Scenario: Hematuria due to Coumadin, taken as prescribed, for atrial fibrillation.

What needs to be coded?

- Hematuria which is the adverse effect of the medication **R31.9**
- Adverse effect of Coumadin, the drug was taken as prescribed **T45.515A**
- Atrial fibrillation, the original condition being treated **I48.91**

2. Adverse effect of Coumadin, the drug was taken as prescribed

ICD-10-CM TABLE of DRUGS and CHEMICALS

Substance	Poisoning, Accidental (unintentional)	Poisoning, Intentional self-harm	Poisoning, Assault	Poisoning, Undetermined	Adverse effect	Underdosing
Coumadin	T45.511	T45.512	T45.513	T45.514	T45.515	T45.516
-rodenticide	T60.4X1	T60.4X2	T60.4X3	T60.4X4		--

ICD-10-CM Tabular

T45 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of primarily systemic and hematological agents, not elsewhere classified
The appropriate 7th character is to be added to each code from category T45
A - initial encounter
D - subsequent encounter
S - sequela
T45.5 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of anticoagulants and antithrombotic drugs
T45.51 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of anticoagulants
T45.515 Adverse effect of anticoagulants

Poisoning

ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2015 I., C., 19., e., 5., (b) Poisoning

When coding a poisoning or reaction to the improper use of a medication (e.g., overdose, wrong substance given or taken in error, wrong route of administration), first assign the appropriate code from categories T36-T50. The poisoning codes have an associated intent as their 5th or 6th character (accidental, intentional self-harm, assault and undetermined). Use additional code(s) for all manifestations of poisonings.

If there is also a diagnosis of abuse or dependence of the substance, the abuse or dependence is assigned as an additional code.

Examples of poisoning include:

- Errors made in drug prescription or in the administration of the drug by provider, nurse, patient, or other person.
- If an overdose of a drug was intentionally taken or administered and resulted in drug toxicity, it would be coded as a poisoning.
- If a nonprescribed drug or medicinal agent was taken in combination with a correctly prescribed and properly administered drug, any drug toxicity or other reaction resulting from the interaction of the two drugs would be classified as a poisoning.
- When a reaction results from the interaction of a drug(s) and alcohol, this would be classified as poisoning.

Now we have been given directions on how to determine if a poisoning has occurred and the sequencing of the codes, let's practice. We will only work through the poisoning coding.

Poisoning

Scenario: A toddler is seen in the emergency department with stomach pain and diarrhea after swallowing several Aleve® found in his grandmother's purse.

What needs to be coded?

- Poisoning by Aleve® **T39.311A**
- Stomach pain, manifestation of poisoning **R10.9**
- Diarrhea, manifestation of poisoning **K52.1**

Poisoning by Aleve® **T39.311A**

ICD-10-CM TABLE of DRUGS and CHEMICALS

Substance	Poisoning, Accidental (unintentional)	Poisoning, Intentional self-harm	Poisoning, Assault	Poisoning, Undetermined	Adverse effect	Underdosing
Aleve-see Naproxen						
Naproxen	T39.311	T39.312	T39.313	T39.314	T39.315	T39.316

ICD-10-CM Tabular

T39 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of nonopioid analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics
The appropriate 7th character is to be added to each code from category T39
A - initial encounter
D - subsequent encounter
S - sequela
T39.3 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs [NSAID]
T39.31 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of propionic acid derivatives
T39.311 Poisoning by propionic acid derivatives, accidental (unintentional)

Underdosing

ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2015 I., C., 19., e., 5., (c) Underdosing

Underdosing refers to taking less of a medication than is prescribed by a provider or a manufacturer's instruction. For underdosing, assign the code from categories T36-T50 (fifth or sixth character "6"). Codes for underdosing should never be assigned as principal or first-listed codes. If a patient has a relapse or exacerbation of the medical condition for which the drug is prescribed because of the reduction in dose, then the medical condition itself should be coded. Noncompliance (Z91.12-, Z91.13-) or complication of care (Y63.6-Y63.9) codes are to be used with an underdosing code to indicate intent, if known.

We have been given an understanding of what constitutes "Underdosing" and the sequencing of the codes, let's practice. We will only work through the underdosing coding.

Underdosing

Scenario: 85 year-old presents with acute exacerbation of his chronic systolic heart failure due only taking half of his Lasix prescription. He states he doesn't want to have to get up at night to urinate.

What needs to be coded?

- Acute on chronic systolic heart failure **I50.23**
- Underdosing of Lasix **T50.1x6A**
- Noncompliance with medication **Z91.128**

Underdosing of Lasix **T50.1x6A**

ICD-10-CM TABLE of DRUGS and CHEMICALS

Substance	Poisoning, Accidental (unintentional)	Poisoning, Intentional self-harm	Poisoning, Assault	Poisoning, Undetermined	Adverse effect	Underdosing
Lasix	T50.1X1	T50.1X2	T50.1X3	T50.1X4	T50.1X5	T50.1X6

ICD-10-CM Tabular

T50 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of diuretics and other and unspecified drugs, medicaments and biological substances
The appropriate 7th character is to be added to each code from category T50
A - initial encounter
D - subsequent encounter
S - sequela
T50.1 Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of loop [high-ceiling] diuretics
T50.1x Poisoning by, adverse effect of and underdosing of loop [high-ceiling] diuretics
T50.1x6 Underdosing of loop [high-ceiling] diuretics

Toxic Effects

ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY 2015 I., C., 19., e., 5., (c) Toxic Effects

When a harmful substance is ingested or comes in contact with a person, this is classified as a toxic effect. The toxic effect codes are in categories T51-T65.

Toxic effect codes have an associated intent: accidental, intentional self-harm, assault and undetermined.

Notes:

- Toxic effects are of substances chiefly nonmedicinal as to source
- Toxic effects should be sequenced first, followed by all manifestations
- When no intent is indicated code to accidental.
- Undetermined intent is only for use when there is specific documentation in the record that the intent of the toxic effect cannot be determined.

Let's put into practice what we have learned about what a toxic effect is and how to sequence the codes. We will only work through the toxic effects coding.

Toxic Effects

Scenario: 37 year old presents with dizziness and nausea as toxic effects of prolonged exposure to natural gas fumes from a hot water heater supply hose leak.

What needs to be coded?

- Toxic effect of natural gas fumes **T59.891A**
- Dizziness **R42**
- Nausea **R11.0**

Toxic effect of natural gas fumes **T59.891A**

ICD-10-CM TABLE of DRUGS and CHEMICALS

Substance	Poisoning, Accidental (unintentional)	Poisoning, Intentional self-harm	Poisoning, Assault	Poisoning, Undetermined	Adverse effect	Underdosing
Gas	T59.91	T59.92	T59.93	T59.94	--	--
-natural	T59.891	T59.892	T59.893	T59.894	--	--

ICD-10-CM Tabular

T59 Toxic effect of other gases, fumes and vapors
includes: aerosol propellants
Excludes1: chlorofluorocarbons (T53.5)
The appropriate 7th character is to be added to each code from category T59
A - initial encounter
D - subsequent encounter
S - sequela
T59.8 Toxic effect of other specified gases, fumes and vapors
T59.89 Toxic effect of other specified gases, fumes and vapors
T59.891 Toxic effect of other specified gases, fumes and vapors, accidental (unintentional)