

Substance use disorder (SUD) is cognitive, behavioral, and physiological symptoms indicating that one continues substance use despite significant substance-related problems. SUD leads to clinically significant impairment or distress with manifestations within a 12-month period.

SUD includes *physical and psychological dependence*. One may experience this either independently or concurrently.

Physical dependence is withdrawal syndrome upon substance use reduction or discontinuation (physiological symptoms). One may have a physical dependence on a substance without having a substance use disorder.

Psychological dependence is cognitive and behavioral symptoms.

Documentation Tips:

- Physical dependence documentation should include the following:
 - **Name of substance**
 - E.g. opioids (F11.-), alcohol (F10.-), or cocaine (F14.-)
 - **Symptoms**
 - E.g. tolerance or withdrawal
 - **Treatment plan**
 - E.g. current response to treatment
 - Refusal or non-compliance
 - **Long-term use of a prescribed drug, when appropriate, should be documented**
 - E.g. “long-term use of methadone for pain management”

- SUD documentation should include the following:
 - **Name of substance**
 - **Symptoms**
 - E.g. overdose, persistent desire, craving, or recurrent use
 - **Severity:**
 - Mild, moderate, or severe
 - **Remission status, if applicable, when symptom-free:**
 - Early (3-12 months) or sustained (12+ months)
 - **Treatment plan**
 - E.g. medications, outpatient counseling, planned inpatient treatment, or shared decision-making



Substance Use Disorder and Dependence A Quick Reference Guide for Providers

- When documenting drug-related disorders, consider the following:
 - **Type of disorder/level of use:**
 - Use, abuse, or dependence
 - Use is an amount or pattern that doesn't rise in level.
 - Abuse is a maladaptive pattern of use that becomes socially, legally, or occupationally problematic.
 - Dependence is tolerance or the physical need for a substance in increasing amounts to achieve the desired effect.
 - Document, as appropriate, "uncomplicated" or "in remission"
 - For demonstration purposes only, examples include:

Documentation	Code
Opioid abuse, uncomplicated	F11.10
Alcohol dependence, uncomplicated	F10.20
Cocaine dependence, in remission	F14.21

- **Associated complications**
 - E.g. intoxication or withdrawal
 - **Substance-induced mood/psychotic symptoms**
 - E.g. depression, hallucinations, delirium, or anxiety
- Documentation of use, abuse, and dependence of the same substance will default, based on hierarchy, to identify the pattern of use.

Documentation	Default
Use and abuse	Abuse
Use and dependence	Dependence
Abuse and dependence	Dependence
Use, abuse, and dependence	Dependence

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