Chronic Condition Coding Awareness: Autistic Disorder

Autistic Disorder

Autism is a brain disorder that limits a person's ability to communicate and relate to other people[2]. Also known as autism spectrum disorder (ASD), the term "spectrum" reflects the wide variation in challenges and strengths possessed by each person[1]. Some people can navigate their world, some have exceptional abilities, while others struggle to speak[2].

Symptoms of Autism

Signs of ASD tend to appear between 2 and 3 years of age and can include repeated motions and/or words, avoiding eye contact or physical touch, delays in learning to talk, and getting upset by minor changes[2]. Additionally, some people with autism can experience physical symptoms such as constipation, sleep problems, poor coordination of muscles, and seizures[2]. These signs, however, can also occur in children without ASD and at any age[1][2]. It is important that caregivers talk with a healthcare provider to request a screening for autism.

Treatment of Autism

Treatment for ASD is dependent on screening results. A diagnosis of autism is not needed for people to begin receiving services related to developmental delays or learning challenges[1]. Nonetheless treatments offered include behavior programs, individualized education program (IEP), medication, sensory processing, assistive technology, and diet[2].

Autistic Disorder Coding Guidance

TIPS:	ICD-10 Mapping & Education	
➤ **ICD-10-CM**	F84.0 – F84.9 (Autistic disorder)[3]	
	F84.0	Autistic Disorder
	F84.2	Rett's Syndrome
	F84.3	Other Childhood Disintegrative Disorder
	F84.5	Asperger's Syndrome
	F84.8	Other Pervasive Developmental Disorders
	F84.9	Pervasive Developmental Disorder, unspecified

➤ **Use additional code…**	… to identify any associated <u>medical condition</u> such as:
	    ○ Constipation
	    ○ Sleep problems
	    ○ Poor coordination of muscles
	    ○ Seizures
	…and intellectual disabilities such as <u>IQ</u>:
	    ○ *F70* Mild (IQ 50-69)
	    ○ *F71* Moderate (IQ 35-49)
	    ○ *F72* Severe (IQ 20-34)
	    ○ *F73* Profound (IQ under 20)
	    ○ *F78* Other intellectual disabilities
	    ○ *F79* Unspecified intellectual disabilities
	    ○ *R41.83* Borderline intellectual functioning (IQ above 70-84)	

➤ **Avoid terms such as "history of"…**	… if patient is still being monitored for the condition.
	    ○ <u>Incorrect</u> wording: *Patient has <u>history of</u> autism.*
	    ○ <u>Correct</u> wording: *Patient has autism and continues medication.*	

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➢	**Documentation & Coding Tips**	The following language supports actively monitoring [any] condition and must be documented by the provider. In the documentation, mention… o if the patient is receiving therapy. o getting a refill on medication. o the status of the condition.
➢	**HEDIS Tip**	Patients who were hospitalized either in the emergency room or inpatient for treatment of autistic disorders should have a follow-up visit with a mental health practitioner within 7 days and then at 30 days post discharge.[4]

1. Autism Speaks: What is Autism? (https://www.autismspeaks.org/what-autism)
2. WebMD: What is Autism? (http://www.webmd.com/brain/autism/ss/slideshow-autism-overview), Reviewed September 28, 2021
3. 2023 ICD-10-CM Expert for Physicians: The Complete Official Code Set, Optum360. 2023 Optum360, LLC
4. 2022 HEDIS Technical Specifications

Issued Date: 07/01/2017
Reviewed Date: 12/01/2018
Reviewed Date: 01/2023

➤ **Secure Portal Registration:** If you haven't already do so, please go to www.HomeStateHealth.com to register for our Secure Portal. Functions on the portal include: Verification of eligibility, submission of claims, entering authorizations, viewing patient care gaps, etc. Use of the portal is FREE for all services!

➤ **Electronic Funds Transfer / Electronic Remittance Advice**
· Home State Health Plan partners with PaySpan Health for EFT/ERA services.
· Please register with PaySpan Health at www.payspanhealth.com

Questions?
Contact Provider Relations at 1-855-694-4663.