



## 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<sup>2</sup>. Also known as autism spectrum disorder (ASD), the term "spectrum" reflects the wide variation in challenges and strengths possessed by each person<sup>1</sup>. Some people can navigate their world, some have exceptional abilities, while others struggle to speak<sup>2</sup>.

### **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<sup>2</sup>. Additionally, some people with autism can experience physical symptoms such as constipation, sleep problems, poor coordination of muscles, and seizures<sup>2</sup>. These signs, however, can also occur in children without ASD and at any age<sup>1,2</sup>. 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<sup>1</sup>. Nonetheless treatments offered include behavior programs, individualized education program (IEP), medication, sensory processing, assistive technology, and diet<sup>2</sup>.

### **Autistic Disorder Coding Guidance**

<b>TIPS:</b>		<b>ICD-10 Mapping &amp; Education</b>	
➤ <b>ICD-10-CM</b>		F84.0 – F84.9 (Autistic disorder) <sup>3</sup>	
		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
➤ <b>Use additional code...</b>		... 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> :	
		○ <i>F70</i> Mild (IQ 50-69)	
		○ <i>F71</i> Moderate (IQ 35-49)	
		○ <i>F72</i> Severe (IQ 20-34)	
		○ <i>F73</i> Profound (IQ under 20)	
		○ <i>F78</i> Other intellectual disabilities	
		○ <i>F79</i> Unspecified intellectual disabilities	
		○ <i>R41.83</i> Borderline intellectual functioning (IQ above 70-84)	
➤ <b>Avoid terms such as "history of"...</b>		... if patient is still being monitored for the condition.	
		○ <u>Incorrect</u> wording: <i>Patient has <u>history of</u> autism.</i>	
		○ <u>Correct</u> wording: <i>Patient has autism and continues medication.</i>	

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➤ <b>Documentation &amp; Coding Tips</b>	The following language supports actively monitoring [any] condition and must be documented by the provider. In the documentation, mention... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ if the patient is receiving therapy.</li> <li>○ getting a refill on medication.</li> <li>○ the status of the condition.</li> </ul>
➤ <b>HEDIS Tip</b>	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. <sup>4</sup>

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 May 26, 2017
3. 2019 ICD-10-CM Expert for Physicians: The Complete Official Code Set, Optum360. 2018 Optum360, LLC
4. 2019 HEDIS Technical Specifications

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*Reviewed Date: 12/01/2018*

➤ **Secure Portal Registration:** If you haven't already do so, please go to [www.HomeStateHealth.com](http://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](http://www.payspanhealth.com)

**Questions?**

**Contact Provider Relations at 1-855-694-4663.**