

# DID YOU KNOW – Coding Education Series

## Coding for Major Depressive Disorder



### **Facts About Major Depression:**

- Eighty percent of older adults have at least one chronic health condition, and 50% have two or more. Depression is more common in people who also have other illnesses (such as heart disease or cancer) or whose function becomes limited.
- Depression often is misdiagnosed and undertreated. Providers may mistake an older adult's symptoms of depression as a natural reaction to illness or life changes.
- Because treatment can have beneficial effects on health outcomes in the elderly, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will reimburse for an annual depression screening.

### **Screening for Depression:**

Screening for depression is a component of the Initial Annual Wellness Visit (HCPCS code G0438). Screening for depression in subsequent Annual Wellness Visits (HCPCS code G0439) or otherwise may be covered by billing with HCPCS code G0444.

### **Documentation and Coding Tips:**

- Document severity and/or clinical status such as:
  - Episode (single or recurrent)
  - Severity (mild, moderate, severe, with or without psychotic features)
  - Clinical status (in partial/full remission)

If the depression is stable and the patient does not currently meet MDD criteria, providers should document and code “in remission” status. Partial remission is defined as symptoms occasioning from a previous depressive episode without meeting full criteria or a hiatus lasting less than two months without significant symptoms. Full remission is defined as no significant signs/symptoms of the disorder during the past two months.

### **ICD-10 Codes:**

#### **Major depressive disorder**

**F32.0** MDD, single episode, mild  
**F32.1** MDD, single episode, moderate  
**F32.2** MDD, single episode, severe without psychotic features  
**F32.3** MDD, single episode, severe with psychotic features  
**F32.89** MDD, Other specified depressive episodes  
**F32.9** MDD, single episode, unspecified

#### **Recurrent major depression**

**F33.0** MDD, recurrent, mild  
**F33.1** MDD, recurrent, moderate  
**F33.2** MDD, recurrent, severe without psychotic features  
**F33.3** MDD, recurrent, severe with psychotic features  
**F33.8** MDD, Other recurrent depressive disorders  
**F33.9** MDD, recurrent, unspecified

#### **Major depression in remission**

**F32.4** MDD, single episode, in partial remission  
**F32.5** MDD, single episode, in full remission  
**F33.40** MDD, recurrent, in remission, unspecified  
**F33.41** MDD, recurrent, in partial remission  
**F33.42** MDD, recurrent, in full remission

#### **Mental health screening codes**

**Z13.30** Encounter for screening examination for mental health and behavioral disorders, unspecified  
**Z13.31** Encounter for screening for depression  
**Z13.39** Encounter for screening examination for other mental health and behavioral disorder