



Major Depression Disorder

When evaluating patients, providers should code and document conditions to the highest level of accuracy and specificity. Unspecified codes should not be used unless the specificity is truly unknown, as they do not accurately convey the patient's burden of illness. Like any other documentation, it is important that the diagnostic statement matches the assigned code.

Providers should specify in documentation and coding:

- Episode (Single or Recurrent)
- Severity (Mild, Moderate, or Severe)
- Presence of psychotic features (with or without)

Below is an example of unacceptable vs. acceptable documentation.

Unacceptable Documentation

"Depression is stable, on cymbalta"

Code Assigned: F33.0- Major depressive disorder, recurrent, mild

**** In this situation the provider has used a specified code, but the documentation does not reflect the diagnostic statement. This would be considered unsupported. Payers may delete this diagnosis code or replace it with a lower grade unspecified code.*

Acceptable Documentation

"Recurrent, major depression mild is stable. Patient continues Cymbalta, we refilled this today. PHQ9 results 6."

Code Assigned: F33.0- Major depressive disorder, recurrent, mild

CODE DESCRIPTION	SINGLE EPISODE	RECURRENT EPISODE	DSM-5 NOTES	PHQ-9 Score
Major depressive disorder, mild	F32.0	F33.0	Mild: Few, if any, symptoms in excess of those required to make the diagnosis are present, the intensity of the symptoms is distressing but manageable, and the symptoms result in minor impairment in social or occupational functioning.	10-14
Major depressive disorder, moderate	F32.1	F33.1	Moderate: The number of symptoms, intensity of symptoms, and/or functional impairment are between those specified for "mild" and "severe."	15-19
Major depressive disorder, severe, without psychotic features	F32.2	F33.2	Severe: The number of symptoms is substantially in excess of that required to make the diagnosis, the intensity of the symptoms is seriously distressing and unmanageable, and the symptoms markedly interfere with social and occupational functioning.	>20
Major depressive disorder, severe, with psychotic features	F32.3	F33.3	Delusions, psychosis, or hallucinations are present at any time during the episode.	-
Major depressive disorder, in full remission	F32.5	F33.42	During the past 2 months, no significant signs or symptoms of the disturbance were present.	-