



Chronic Condition Coding: Behavioral and Conduct Disorder

Conduct Disorder

Conduct disorder is a repetitive and persistent pattern of behavior in children and adolescents in which the rights of others or basic social rules are violated¹. It is not uncommon for a child or teen to experience behavioral problems; however, the behavior is considered to be a conduct disorder when it is long-lasting and when it goes against accepted norms of behavior and disrupts the child’s or family’s everyday life².

Symptoms of Conduct Disorder

Symptoms of conduct disorder vary depending on the age of the child and whether the disorder is mild, moderate or severe. In general, the symptoms fall into four categories: (1) Aggressive, (2) Non-Aggressive or Destructive, (3) Deceitfulness, and (4) Violation of Rules².

Treatment of Conduct Disorder

Treatment for conduct disorder is based on many factors, including the child’s age, the severity of the symptoms and the child’s ability to participate in and tolerate specific therapies². Treatment usually consists of psychotherapy, medication and/or a family support group or organization. Appropriate treatment is individualized and should be done by a mental health professional, preferably one who is trained in children’s mental health¹.

Behavioral and Conduct Disorder Coding Guidance

TIPS:	ICD-10 Mapping & Education
ICD-10-CM	F91.0 – F91.9 (Conduct Disorders) ³
Do NOT code...	<p>...the following disorders if they exist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antisocial behavior (Z72.81-) • Antisocial personality disorder (F60.2) <p style="text-align: right;">Per ICD-10-CM “Excludes 1” note.</p>
DO code...	<p>...the following disorders if they exist at the same time as Conduct Disorder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADHD (F90.-) • Mood [affective] disorders (F30-F39) • Pervasive developmental disorders (F84.-) • Schizophrenia (F20.-) <p style="text-align: right;">Per ICD-10-CM “Excludes 2” note.</p>
Documentation and Coding Tips	<p>The following language supports [any] condition and must be documented by the provider. It cannot be inferred by coders. In the documentation, mention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the patient is receiving therapy. • Getting a refill on medication. • The status of the condition.