

Risk Coding Tips and Tools Epilepsy

To accurately code epilepsy, the documentation needs to be clear and detailed using the following terms to allow accurate ICD-10 code assignment.

The best practice is to include the following information in your documentation:

- **Type of seizure:**
 - Generalization idiopathic
 - Location-related idiopathic or symptomatic
 - Simple partial or complex partial seizures
- **Status of the seizure:**
 - Intractable-equivalent terms include pharmacologically resistant, treatment resistant, refractory (medically) and poorly controlled
 - Not intractable
 - With or without status epilepticus
- **Contributing factors:**
 - Alcohol
 - Drug use
 - Hormonal changes
 - Sleep deprivation
 - Stress

Document the treatment plan:

- Use of anti-convulsion medications
- Surgery
- Vagus nerve stimulation
- Responsive neurostimulation
- Deep brain stimulation

Coding Tip:

- Avoid using **unspecified convulsion (R56.9)** if diagnosis of epilepsy is confirmed. This code is used for single seizure/convulsion
- Seizure disorder will index to ICD-10 code G40.909

You can find this resource and others like it in the OHN Risk Coding Corner at www.OrlandoHealth.com/Network/Resources.


You can also contact us at RiskCoding@OrlandoHealth.com for additional questions or support needs.

Risk Coding Tips and Tools Epilepsy

Physician Documentation Example

Example 1: Patient has known epilepsy with complex partial seizures and is followed regularly

 **Incorrect code commonly assigned:** R56.9 Unspecified convulsion

 **Correct code to assign:** G40.209 Localization-related (focal) (partial) symptomatic epilepsy and epileptic syndromes with complex partial seizures, not intractable, without status epilepticus

Example 2: Patient with diagnosed seizure disorder, no recent seizure, continue Keppra

 **Incorrect code commonly assigned:** R56.9 Unspecified convulsion

 **Correct code to assign:** G40.909 Seizure disorder

Blue Cross NC. (2023). *Documentation and coding for epilepsy, seizure disorders & convulsions*. Bluecrossnc.com. <https://www.bluecrossnc.com/providers/provider-news/2023/documentation-and-coding-epilepsy-seizure-disorders-convulsions>

Premera Blue Cross. (2022). *Seizures vs. epilepsy*. Premera.com. <https://www.premera.com/documents/047720.pdf>

You can find this resource and others like it in the OHN Risk Coding Corner at www.OrlandoHealth.com/Network/Resources.

You can also contact us at RiskCoding@OrlandoHealth.com for additional questions or support needs.