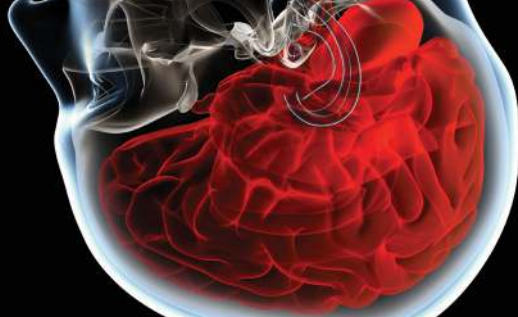




Department of Defense ICD-9 Coding Guidance for Traumatic Brain Injury



Initial & Subsequent TBI Encounter Coding Examples

Initial TBI Encounter Coding Example:

A Service member (SM) is seen for the first time at a military treatment facility for complaints of memory problems several weeks after returning home from deployment. The patient reports that he was part of a convoy that was hit by an improvised explosive device (IED) blast and while he didn't sustain any physical injuries, he reports that he was unconscious for approximately three minutes. The SM reports that he has never sought treatment for his complaint of difficulty remembering things, which is now causing significant difficulty at work. The practitioner ensures documentation that this visit was an initial encounter for TBI as the patient was never seen by medical staff for the incident he described. The practitioner codes this initial encounter as:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Primary diagnosis | 850.11 | Concussion with LOC of 30 minutes or less |
| Secondary diagnoses: | V15.52_2 | Injury related to global war on terrorism, mild |
| | 780.93 | Memory loss, NOS |
| | V70.5_6 | Post-deployment encounter |
| | V80.01 | Special screening for TBI |

Subsequent TBI Encounter Coding Example:

A Service member presents to her provider at a military treatment facility (MTF) after returning home from Iraq complaining of headaches that began shortly after she was exposed to an improvised explosive device (IED) blast two weeks ago. The provider reviews AHLTA notes and finds a note written immediately after the injury documenting the following: a description of the injury event, alteration of consciousness (AOC) of less than five minutes, no reported or observed loss of consciousness (LOC), no post-traumatic amnesia (PTA) and ICD-9 code 850.0. The provider determines that the present complaint of headache may be related to the previously diagnosed mild TBI.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Primary diagnosis | 784.0 | Headache |
| Secondary diagnoses: | V15.52_2 | Injury related to global war on terrorism, mild |
| | 907.0 | Late effect of intracranial injury without skull or facial fracture |
| | V70.5_6 | Post-deployment encounter |



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Coding Initial TBI Encounter

1. Primary code: brain injury, 8xx
2. Secondary diagnosis: V-code, V15.52_x
3. Other ICD-9 codes for symptoms (i.e., Tinnitus 388.3)
4. Appropriate deployment status code, V70.5_x
5. Special screening code for TBI, V80.01

Coding Subsequent TBI Encounters

1. Primary diagnosis: chief complaint
2. Secondary diagnosis: V-code, V15.52_x
3. Late effect code (905.0 or 907.0)
4. Appropriate deployment status code, V70.5_x
5. Other ICD-9 codes as appropriate

| 800-804 & 850-854 Series Codes | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Series Code | Description (Note: require a fourth and fifth digit) |
| 800 | Fractures of vault of skull |
| 801 | Fractures of base of skull |
| 802 | Fractures of face bones |
| 803 | Other and unqualified skull fractures |
| 804 | Multiple fractures involving skull or face with other bones |
| 850 | Concussion |
| 851 | Cerebral laceration and contusion |
| 852 | Subarachnoid, subdural and extradural hemorrhage following injury |
| 853 | Other and unspecified intracranial hemorrhage following injury |
| 854 | Intracranial injury of other and unspecified nature |

| V-Code (must be used with all TBI encounters) | Injury Related to Global War on Terrorism | Level of Severity | | | | |
|--|---|-------------------|------|----------|--------|-------------|
| | | Unknown | Mild | Moderate | Severe | Penetrating |
| V15.52_0 | Personal history of TBI NOT otherwise specified (NOS) | | | | | |
| V15.52_1 | Yes | x | | | | |
| V15.52_2 | Yes | | x | | | |
| V15.52_3 | Yes | | | x | | |
| V15.52_4 | Yes | | | | x | |
| V15.52_5 | Yes | | | | | x |
| V15.52_6 | No | x | | | | |
| V15.52_7 | No | | x | | | |
| V15.52_8 | No | | | x | | |
| V15.52_9 | No | | | | x | |
| V15.52_A | No | | | | | x |
| V15.52_B | Unknown | x | | | | |
| V15.52_C | Unknown | | x | | | |
| V15.52_D | Unknown | | | x | | |
| V15.52_E | Unknown | | | | x | |
| V15.52_F | Unknown | | | | | x |

| Late Effect Codes (must be used with all follow-up TBI encounters) | |
|--|--|
| Series Code | Description |
| 905.0 | Late effect of intracranial injury with skull or facial fracture |
| 907.0 | Late effect of intracranial injury without skull or facial fracture |

| Emotional/Behavioral Symptom Codes | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Series Code | Description |
| 799.21 | Nervousness |
| 799.22 | Irritability |
| 799.23 | Impulsiveness |
| 799.24 | Emotional lability |
| 799.25 | Demoralization and apathy |
| 799.29 | Other signs and symptoms involving emotional state |

| Common Symptoms Associated with TBI | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Series Code | Description |
| | Hearing |
| 389.9 | Hearing loss, unspecified |
| 388.42 | Hyperacusis |
| 388.3 | Tinnitus |
| | Neurologic |
| 780.4 | Dizziness, lightheadedness |
| 784.0 | Headache |
| 780.93 | Memory loss, NOS |
| 438.85 | Vertigo |
| | Psychiatric |
| 308.9 | Acute stress reaction, unspecified |
| 300 | Anxiety/irritability |
| 311 | Depression |
| | Sleep |
| 780.5 | Sleep disturbance |
| 780.52 | Insomnia |
| | Vision |
| 368.8 | Blurred vision, NOS |
| 368.13 | Photophobia |
| | Other/General |
| 780.7 | Malaise and fatigue |
| 787.02 | Nausea |

| Deployment Status Codes | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Series Code | Description |
| V70.5_5 | During deployment encounter |
| V70.5_6 | Post-deployment encounter |

| TBI Screening Code | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Series Code | Description |
| V80.01 | Special screening for TBI |