



Chapter 5: Mental, Behavioral & Neurodevelopmental Disorders (F01–F99)

ICD-10-CM General Guidelines — Quick Reference for Students

CODING DECODED

1. Pain Disorders Related to Psychological Factors

Presentation	Code
Pain exclusively related to psychological factors	F45.41 — never with a G89 code (Excludes1)
Acute/chronic pain WITH a documented psychological component	F45.42, used together with the matching G89.– code

See Section I.C.6 (Pain) for the full G89 sequencing rules.

2. Substance Use Disorders — “In Remission”

“In remission” codes (F10–F19, the -.11/-.21/-.91 subcategories) are assigned only on provider documentation — never inferred by the coder.

Documented Severity	Classify To
Mild substance use disorder, in early/sustained remission	Substance ABUSE, in remission code
Moderate or severe substance use disorder, in early/sustained remission	Substance DEPENDENCE, in remission code

3. Use, Abuse & Dependence — Pick ONE Code

When documentation mentions more than one pattern for the same substance, only one code is assigned — dependence outranks abuse, which outranks use.

Hierarchy: Dependence > Abuse > Use. If both use + abuse are documented → code abuse. If abuse + dependence → code dependence. If all three → code dependence. If use + dependence → code dependence.

4. Unspecified Substance Use Codes

- Codes such as F10.9–, F11.9–, F12.9– ... F19.9– follow the same rule as any “unspecified” diagnosis: only assign when documented and when it meets the definition of a reportable diagnosis.
- Use them only when the substance use is documented as related to a Chapter 5 disorder (e.g., substance-induced sexual dysfunction, sleep disorder) or a medical condition — the relationship itself must be documented by the provider.

5. Medical Conditions Due to Substance Use

A medical condition caused by substance use/abuse/dependence is NOT classified as a substance-induced disorder. Code the medical condition per the Alphabetic Index, plus the appropriate use/abuse/dependence code — do not use a combination “...with other ...-induced disorder” code for this.

Example: Alcoholic pancreatitis from alcohol dependence → K85.2 (alcohol-induced acute pancreatitis) + F10.20 (alcohol dependence, uncomplicated). Not F10.288.

6. Blood Alcohol Level (Y90)

- A code from category Y90 may be added when a documented blood alcohol level accompanies a provider-documented F10.– alcohol-related condition.
- The blood alcohol level itself does not need to be documented by the provider — a lab value is enough, as long as the F10 condition is provider-documented.

7. Factitious Disorder

Type	Who Gets the Code / What to Assign
Imposed on self (Munchausen's syndrome)	F68.1– — assigned to the patient who falsifies/causes their own symptoms
Imposed on another (MSBP / “by proxy”)	F68.A — assigned to the PERPETRATOR's record, not the victim's

Type	Who Gets the Code / What to Assign
Victim of MSBP	Code from T74.– (confirmed) or T76.– (suspected) abuse/neglect/maltreatment on the victim's record

See Section I.C.19.f for full abuse/neglect/maltreatment coding guidance.

8. Dementia

- Dementia (F01, F02, F03) is classified by etiology and severity: unspecified, mild, moderate, or severe.
- Severity is assigned strictly from provider documentation — if severity isn't documented, use the unspecified-severity code.

Inpatient rule: If dementia progresses to a higher severity during one inpatient stay, assign a single code for the highest severity level documented during that stay.

9. Key Codes at a Glance

Code	Meaning	Watch-out
F45.41	Pain disorder exclusively psychological	Never paired with a G89 code
F45.42	Pain disorder with psych. factor + physical pain	Always paired with a G89.– code
F10–F19 (-.11/- .21/- .91)	Substance use disorder, in remission	Provider documentation required
F10.9– ... F19.9–	Unspecified substance use	Only when linked to a documented disorder/condition
Y90.–	Evidence of blood alcohol level	Needs a documented F10 condition, not necessarily a documented BAL
F68.1–	Factitious disorder imposed on self	Assigned to the patient
F68.A	Factitious disorder imposed on another (MSBP)	Assigned to the perpetrator, not the victim
T74.– / T76.–	Abuse/neglect confirmed / suspected	Assigned to the MSBP victim's record
F01–F03	Dementia by etiology + severity	Unspecified only if severity isn't documented

Study tip: for substance-related charts, always resolve use/abuse/dependence into a single code first — everything else in the chapter builds on that one decision.