

Depression and Major Depression

Depression in older adults is estimated to occur in 25% of those with other illnesses, including cancer, arthritis, stroke, chronic lung disease, and cardiovascular disease. Approximately 30% of patients report symptoms of depression to their primary care providers; however, fewer than 10% of these patients have major depression.

Documentation of depression should specify:

- Severity of depression as **MILD, MODERATE, or SEVERE**
- Specific type of depression, if known
 - **MAJOR** depression
 - When **PSYCHOTIC FEATURES** occur with **SEVERE major depression**
 - Nervous depression and neurotic depression are both examples of a **MODERATE major depressive disorder**
 - Both agitated depression and endogenous depression are types of **SEVERE major depression**
- The frequency of symptomatic major depression
 - Is this the first episode e.g., **SINGLE EPISODE**
 - Is there is a history of major depression with more than one symptomatic episode e.g., **“RECURRENT”**
- The persistence of symptoms defined as **PARTIAL REMISSION** or **FULL REMISSION**, e.g., not currently experiencing a depression episode

Examples of complete documentation include:

- *Single episode of major depression with mood-incongruent psychotic symptoms*
- *Single episode of major depression in full remission*
- *Recurrent episodes of major depression*

References:

FY 2022 ICD-10-CM Alphabetic Index and Tabular List

AHA (American Hospital Association) Coding Clinic® for ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS - 2021 Issue 4; ICD-10-CM New/Revised Codes

[NCD - Screening for Depression in Adults \(210.9\) \(cms.gov\)](https://www.cms.gov/medicare/coverage/coverage-guidance/2021/2021-04-icd-10-cm-new-revised-codes)