



Western Australian Coding Rule

0716/13 Situational crisis

ACCD Coding Rule ***Situational crisis*** (Ref No: Q2642) was superseded by ACCD Coding Rule ***Situational crisis***. (Ref No: Q3054) effective 1 July 2016; (log in to view on the [ACCD CLIP portal](#)).



Western Australian Coding Rule

0414/04 Situational crisis

WA Coding Rule 0512/02 *Situational crisis* is superseded by ACCD Coding Rule) ***Situational crisis*** (Ref No: Q2642) effective 1 April 2014; (log in to view on the [ACCD CLIP portal](#)).

DECISION

WA Coding Rule 0512/02 *Situational crisis* is retired.

[Effective 1 Apr 2014, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 8th Ed.]

RETIRED



Western Australian Coding Rule

0512/02 Situational crisis

Q.

If a patient is admitted in a distressed state due to a breakup with their partner and the principal diagnosis on the discharge summary is situational crisis is it correct to assign F43.0 *Acute Stress Reaction* with the appropriate Z code for the breakup?

A.

We have found old advice from the NCCH that states:

“Clinical advice indicates that a situational crisis may be any current situation that is causing stress. It is not a disorder of legitimate diagnosis, but may occur as part of an acute stress reaction with symptoms that require medical attention. If, however, a stressor is ongoing and has gone beyond the usual, normal, acute stress, it becomes a problem of adjustment and the ongoing symptoms are now considered to have developed into a disorder. This may be described as a situational crisis, but the main problem is one of adjustment. Where ‘situational crisis’ is documented, coders should seek clarification from the treating clinician to determine if the patient has acute stress or an adjustment disorder. When documentation is incomplete and clinical advice is unavailable please assign F43.0 *Acute stress reaction*.”

We agree with the above advice previously provided by the NCCH.

DECISION

When documentation is incomplete and clinical advice is unavailable situational crisis should be assigned to F43.0 *Acute stress reaction*. In this query situation a code of Z63.0 *Problems in relationship with spouse or partner* should also be assigned.

[Effective 04 May 2012, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 7th Ed.]