



# Western Australian Coding Rule

## 0725/10 Condition necessitating anaesthesia

### Q.

If a patient requires general anaesthesia due to autism, for booked/planned tooth extraction for tooth decay, should autism be coded?

### A.

IHACPA provided the following response to the WA Clinical Coding Authority, which will not be published nationally:

*ACS 0002 Additional Diagnoses/Directive 1.1.2 instructs:*

*Assign an additional diagnosis code for a condition that resulted in an alteration to the patient's existing care plan...*

The ACS Glossary describes a *Care plan* as:

A care plan is the **intended** health care activities related to a patient's care **during the episode** of care as documented by a clinician responsible for providing care to the patient.

In the scenario provided autism does not meet the ACS 0002 criteria for additional diagnosis code assignment. The decision to admit the patient with autism for an intervention under general anaesthesia, predates the episode of care and is not an alteration of the intended health care activities during the episode of care.

### DECISION

**When anaesthesia is planned prior to admission due to a condition necessitating anaesthesia in order to perform the procedure (that could usually be performed without anaesthesia), the condition has not met ACS 0002 *Additional diagnoses* on this basis alone.**

**This WA Coding Rule 0725/10 *Condition necessitating anaesthesia* supersedes WA Coding Rule 1022/02 *Condition necessitating anaesthesia*.**

This Rule has a minor modification to correspond with an update in ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Thirteenth Edition.

Effective 1 July 2025, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 13<sup>th</sup> Ed.

As per the Patient Activity Data Policy (MP 0164/21) Western Australian Coding Rules must be followed.



# Western Australian Coding Rule

## 1022/02 Condition necessitating anaesthesia

### Q.

If a patient requires general anaesthesia due to autism, for booked/planned tooth extraction for tooth decay, should autism be coded?

### A.

IHACPA provided the following response to the WA Clinical Coding Authority, which will not be published nationally:

The additional diagnoses criterion *Commencement, alteration or adjustment of therapeutic treatment* states:

*Assign an additional diagnosis code for a condition that results in an alteration to the patient's existing care plan.*

The ACS Glossary describes a *Care plan* as:

A care plan is the **intended** health care activities related to a patient's care **during the episode** of care as documented by a clinician responsible for providing care to the patient.

In the scenario provided autism does not meet the ACS 0002 criteria for additional diagnosis code assignment. The decision to admit the patient with autism for an intervention under general anaesthesia, predates the episode of care and is not an alteration of the intended health care activities during the episode of care.

### DECISION

**When anaesthesia is planned prior to admission due to a condition necessitating anaesthesia in order to perform the procedure (that could usually be performed without anaesthesia), the condition has not met ACS 0002 *Additional diagnoses on this basis alone*.**

[Effective 1 October 2022, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 12<sup>th</sup> Ed.]