



# Western Australian Coding Rule

## 1022/02 Condition necessitating anaesthesia

**Q.** Patient requires general anaesthesia due to autism, for tooth extraction to be performed for tooth decay. Booked/planned for extraction to be done under GA. Should autism be coded?

**A.** IHACPA have provided the following response to the WA Clinical Coding Authority, which will not be published nationally: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

### 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.]