

ICD-10 Excludes1 Note and Coding Guidelines

What is an ICD-10 Excludes1 note?

The official coding guidelines explain¹: An Excludes1 note indicates that the code excluded should never be used at the same time as the code above the Excludes1 note. An Excludes1 note is applicable when two conditions or encounters cannot be used together.

Example: If a patient is seeing the physician for a prenatal visit, and a sexually transmitted infection (STI) screening is performed, only the pregnancy ICD-10 code is needed on the claim because the prenatal visit encompasses the STI screening.

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An ICD-10 Excludes1 note is also referred to as mutually exclusive. The list of scenarios below demonstrates this concept.

Scenario	Exclusion	Rationale
Two encounter types on the same date of service	Codes Z01.419 Encounter for gynecological examination (general) (routine) without abnormal findings and Z00.00 Encounter for general adult medical examination without abnormal findings should not be reported on the same date of service. Based on the Excludes1 note, these two codes cannot be reported together.	Choose one encounter code as the reason for the encounter/visit shown in the medical record as the primary reason for the provided services.
Specific condition with signs and symptoms of the same condition	R87.612 Low grade squamous intraepithelial lesion on cytologic smear of cervix (LGSIL) should not be reported with N87.0 Mild cervical dysplasia. Based on the Excludes1 note, these two codes cannot be reported together.	Codes describing symptoms and signs are only acceptable for reporting when the provider has not established a related definitive diagnosis.
Codes that indicate a patient is both pregnant and trying to conceive simultaneously	Code Z13.79 Encounter for other screening for genetic and chromosomal anomalies, which is for nonprocreative use, should not be reported with code Z34.81 Encounter for supervision of other normal pregnancy, first trimester on the same date of service. Based on the Excludes1 note, these two codes cannot be reported together.	A patient cannot be pregnant and trying to conceive at the same time. Choose the code that represents the patient's status on the date of service.

Scenario	Exclusion	Rationale
<p>Conditions that indicate both a complicated and a normal pregnancy in the same patient.</p>	<p>→ O09.891 Supervision of other high-risk pregnancies, first trimester should not be reported with Z34.81 Encounter for supervision of other normal pregnancy, first trimester. Based on the Excludes1 note, these two codes cannot be reported together.</p>	<p>→ Patients cannot have both a normal and a complicated pregnancy occurring at the same time.</p>
<p>Coding for screenings that are included as part of an examination.</p>	<p>→ Z12.4 Encounter for screening for malignant neoplasm of cervix is excluded for use with Z01.419 Encounter for gynecological examination (general) (routine) without abnormal findings. Based on the Excludes1 note, these two codes cannot be reported together.</p>	<p>→ A screening code is not necessary if the screening is inherent to a routine examination, such as a pap smear done during a routine pelvic examination.²</p>

Where to find more information?

ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting are updated semi-annually and provide additional details about Excludes1 notes. Follow the link below for additional guidance.

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2024-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf>

To research specific ICD-10-CM codes and conditions, enter the code or condition at the link below and locate the red prohibited 1 symbol (⊘) for the exclusion note and references.

<https://icd10cmttool.cdc.gov/?fy=FY2024>

References

1. ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting. CMS.gov. Updated October 1, 2023. Accessed January 16, 2024. <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2024-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf>
2. National Center for Health Statistics - ICD-10-CM. CDC.gov. Accessed January 16, 2024.