



**BlueCross
BlueShield
of Vermont**

An Independent Licensee
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Coding Tips

This is one in a series of tip sheets focusing on accurate coding for specific conditions.

DSP GUIDELINES

What does DSP stand for?

The acronym DSP is used to describe the types of documentation in the medical record that would support the assignment and reporting of the ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes. In addition to the diagnosis, the documentation must include whatever action the provider took during the face-to-face visit, after visit, audio/video or audio only Telehealth visit, or after health, relative to the management of the diagnosis.

Documentation of the diagnosis without the clinical significance, current status or plan of care isn't considered sufficient documentation to submit the corresponding ICD-10-CM code on the claim for the visit.

D: Diagnosis: Describe each medical diagnosis to the highest degree of specificity. Avoid assumptions. Coders cannot make assumptions or interpret clinical information in the record.

S: Status: Describe the condition: is it stable, unstable, resolved, or has it progressed? What is the severity of the condition?

P: Plan: What is the plan of action to address the conditions? Medications, surgical intervention, lifestyle modification, referral to specialists, labs?

Examples of DSP include:

STATUS

Targeted physical exam for specific diagnosis

- PVD – “dorsalis pedis and posterior tibial pulses are weak”
- Diabetic neuropathy – “monofilament exam showed decreased sensation”
- COPD – “diminished air entry and expiratory wheezing on lung exam”

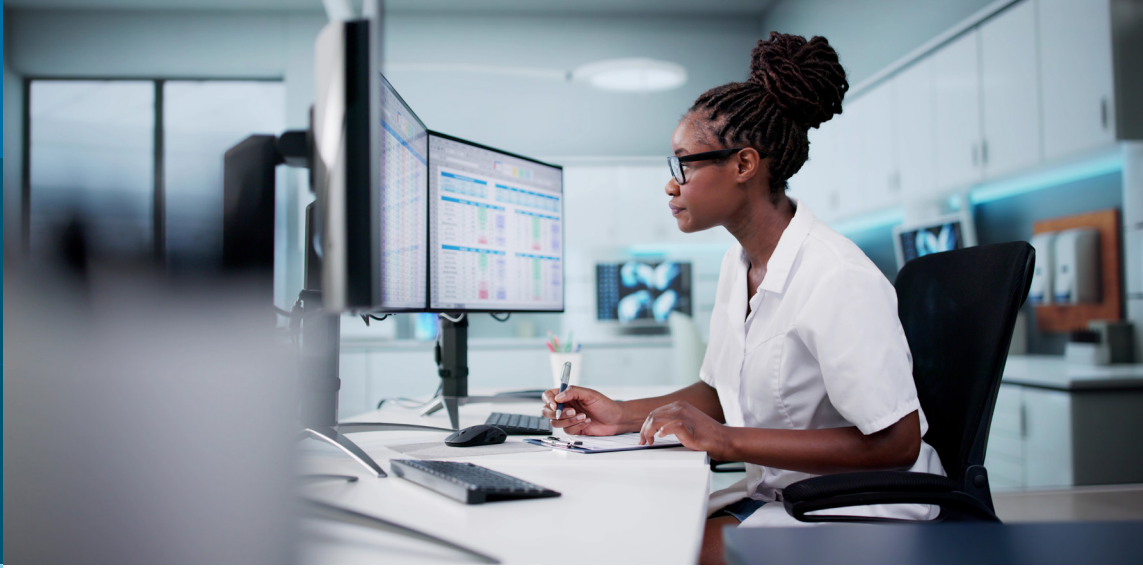
Referencing test results

- “CT scans of abdomen shows stable AAA”
- “EKG reveals atrial fibrillation”
- “U/A negative for protein”

Assessment

- “Stable,” “unstable”
- “Well controlled,” “poorly controlled,” “out of control”

continued on back



**Progression**

- "Worsening," "improving," "unchanged"
- "Doing better," "progressing as expected"

Severity:

- "Mild," "moderate," "severe"
- "Minimal," "significant," "extreme"

PLAN (TREATMENT)**Order diagnostic test:**

- "HgbA1c ordered"
- "Chest X-ray ordered"
- "Checking PT/INR"

Medication:

- "Cardizem added"
- "Increased dose of Lasix"
- "Refilled Metformin"
- "Continue statins"

Surgical Intervention:

- "Femoral artery stented"
- "Malignant melanoma excised"

Lifestyle modification:

- "Diet and exercise discussed"
- "Encouraged to attend AA meetings"

Continuity of Care Information:

- "Ophthalmologist managing exudative macular degeneration"
- "Follow up with endocrinology and/or nephrology for secondary hyperparathyroidism"

Questions? Contact Blue Cross VT Risk Adjustment at riskadjustment@bcbsvt.com or at **(802)-371-3540**.

ICD-10-CM diagnostic codes and the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting are subject to change. It's the responsibility of the provider to ensure that current ICD-10-CM diagnostic codes and the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding are reviewed prior to the submission of claims.

Keep in mind that none of the information included in this document is intended to be legal advice and, as such, it remains the provider's responsibility to ensure that all the coding and documentation are done in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations.