

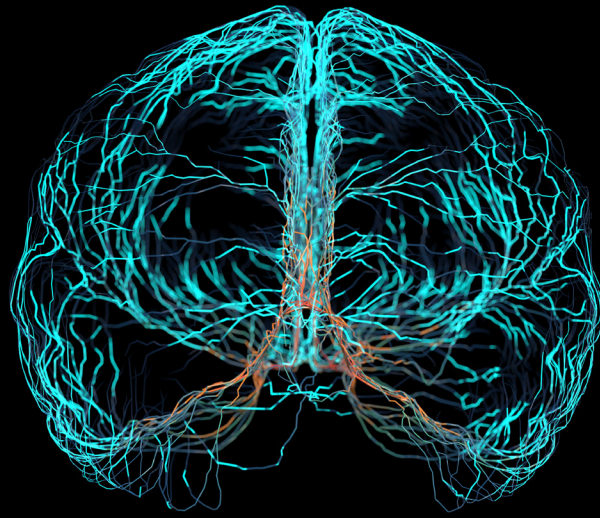


**BlueCross  
BlueShield**  
of Vermont

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## Coding Tips

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



## SEIZURES AND EPILEPSY

**Epilepsy is a brain disorder that causes people to have recurring seizures. It's sometimes called a seizure disorder.**

In coding epilepsy and recurrent seizures, a fifth digit is required to indicate whether the condition is intractable or not, and a sixth digit is required to indicate with or without status epilepticus.

### Documenting the condition

When documenting, describe whether the condition is:

- Intractable
  - Terms equivalent to intractable include pharmacoresistant (pharmacologically resistant to treatment), refractory (medically) and poorly controlled.
- Not intractable
- With status epilepticus
- Without status epilepticus
- Document and link the causes if known (e.g., alcohol, drugs, stress)
- Supporting documentation may also include anticonvulsant medications, diagnostic testing and specific blood tests

### Coding examples for seizures:

- R56.01 – Complex febrile seizure
- R56.9 – Unspecified seizure

### Coding examples for epilepsy:

- G40.311 – Other generalized epilepsy and epileptic syndromes, intractable, with status epilepticus
- G40.901 – Epilepsy, unspecified, not intractable, with status epilepticus

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

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

*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.*