



**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.

# CODING FOR “HISTORY OF” IN THE MEDICAL RECORD

In ICD-10-CM guidelines and instructions, “history of” means the patient no longer has the condition and the diagnosis generally indexes to a Z code.

### There are two kinds of history Z codes: personal and family.

Personal history codes explain a patient’s past medical condition that:

- No longer exists
- Is not receiving any treatment
- Has the potential for recurrence and may require continued monitoring

Personal history codes may be used in conjunction with follow-up codes.

Family history codes can be used:

- When a patient’s family member has or had a particular disease that causes the patient to be at a higher risk of contracting the disease
- In conjunction with screening codes to explain the need for a test or procedure

History codes are also acceptable on any medical record regardless of the reason for the visit.

Conditions documented as **“history of”** that aren’t noted in history of present illness (HPI) or chief complaint (CC) require additional documentation, which must include the following to correctly capture diagnoses:

- Current documentation using the DSP concept: diagnosis, status, plan of care.
- Clearly documented on the correct date of service as being reviewed and has impacted the care and management of the patient.

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The history Z code categories are as follows:

Code	Explanation
Z80	Family history of primary malignant neoplasm
Z81	Family history of mental and behavioral disorders
Z82	Family history of certain disabilities and chronic diseases (leading to disablement)
Z83	Family history of other specific disorders
Z84	Family history of other conditions
Z85	Personal history of malignant neoplasm
Z86	Personal history of certain other diseases
Z87	Personal history of other diseases and conditions
Z91.4	Personal history of psychological trauma, not elsewhere classified
Z91.5	Personal history of self-harm
Z91.81	History of falling
Z92	Personal history of medical treatment, except Z92.0 - personal history of contraception

**Questions?** Contact Blue Cross VT Risk Adjustment at [riskadjustment@bcbsvt.com](mailto: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.