Risk Adjustment Coding Academy – Coding Focus

Opioid Use Disorder

Opioids

Opioids are a class of chemically related drugs that work by interacting with opioid receptors on nerve cells in the brain and the body. Opioids include prescription drugs like fentanyl, oxycodone, codeine, and morphine, as well as the illegal drug heroin. Opioids are typically prescribed to treat acute pain and are considered to be generally safe when taken as prescribed for short periods of time.

However, they can also produce a sense of euphoria and may be abused if they are taken in a different manner or at larger doses than prescribed, or taken without a prescription. Even regular use as prescribed by a doctor can produce dependence, and abuse of opioids can lead to a fatal overdose. Currently, over 2.5 million Americans suffer from opioid use disorder[1].

Use Disorder

Opioid use disorders are classified as mild, moderate or severe. The level of severity is based upon the number of criteria that are met, which include:

- An inability to reduce or control usage
- Using larger amounts over time
- Increased tolerance
- Continuing to use opioids even when that use is harmful to relationships or finances or use interferes with daily living
- Experiencing withdrawal symptoms upon stopping or reducing use

Complications and Treatment

Along with pain relief, opioids can cause sedation and respiratory depression. Abuse of opioids can result in an overdose. According to the Centers for Disease Control, 91 Americans die from an opioid overdose every day[2] and drug overdose deaths are now the leading cause of injury death in the United States[3].

Effective treatments for opioid use disorders include behavioral counseling as well as medications such as methadone, naltrexone and buprenorphine[4]. These medications help to reduce withdrawal symptoms and opioid cravings, as well as restoring balance to brain circuits that have been affected by addiction.

Coding Guidance

Diagnosis codes for opioid related disorders are located in chapter five of ICD-10-CM, under code category F11. This category includes detailed subcategories to indicate opioid use, abuse or dependency [5] . Additional specifiers are included to provide detailed information regarding complications from intoxication, mood and psychotic disorders, and withdrawal symptoms. A code from category F11 should only be assigned based on the provider's clinical judgement and the details documented in the medical record.

The CMS-HCC Risk Adjustment Model (V22) lists diagnoses for opioid related psychosis under HCC 54 and opioid dependency under HCC 55. For risk adjustment purposes, opioid abuse, uncomplicated (F11.10) and unspecified opioid use, uncomplicated (F11.90) are not included in the model.

**Opioid Use Disorders
(HCC 54/55)**

F11.1_* - Opioid abuse
F11.2_* - Opioid dependence
F11.9_* - Opioid use

Subcategories include:
*._0 – Uncomplicated
*._1 – In remission
*._2 – with intoxication∞
*._3 – with withdrawal
*._4 – with induced mood disorder
*._5 – psychotic disorders∞
*._8 – other induced disorders∞
*._9 – unspecified induced disorder

∞sixth character is required

Resources:

[1] National Institute on Drug Abuse. (n.d.). Effective Treatments for Opioid Addiction. Accessed June 23, 2017 from drugabuse.gov

[2] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016). Understanding the Epidemic. Accessed June 23, 2017 from cdc.gov

[3] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2017). The U.S. Opioid Epidemic. Accessed June 23, 2017 from hhs.gov

[4] Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2016). Treatments for Substance Use Disorders. Accessed June 23, 2017 from samsha.gov

[5] Schmidt, A., Kenney, A., Krawzik, K., & Willard, P. (2016). ICD-10-CM expert for physicians 2017: The complete official code set. Place of publication not identified: Optum360°