

## Coding Best Practice

### Using Remission Codes for Substance Use Disorder Diagnoses

Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island (Neighborhood) conducted a detailed claims analysis that revealed inconsistencies in how providers are using diagnosis code for their patients who had an active substance use disorder (SUD) and are now in remission. Using a remission code means that based on provider’s clinical judgment, the patient has achieved remission from the identified diagnosis.

When providers accurately document current and past diagnosis, it

- ✓ Provides an accurate member record with remission as active diagnosis and SUD diagnosis in member history.
- ✓ Prevents patients from continually being identified as having an active substance use disorder they do not.
- ✓ Improves the HEDIS quality scores by removing members in remission from the measure denominator associated with SUDs.

Below are examples of codes that can be used to document remission in provider electronic medical records.

***When using remission codes, the SUD diagnosis must be removed from active diagnosis.***

Substance	Diagnosis	Description
<b>Alcohol</b>	F10.11	ALCOHOL ABUSE, IN REMISSION
	F10.21	ALCOHOL DEPENDENCE, IN REMISSION
<b>Opioids</b>	F11.11	OPIOID ABUSE, IN REMISSION
	F11.21	OPIOID DEPENDENCE, IN REMISSION
<b>Cannabis</b>	F12.11	CANNABIS ABUSE, IN REMISSION
	F12.21	CANNABIS DEPENDENCE, IN REMISSION
<b>Sedative</b>	F13.11	SEDATIVE, HYPNOTIC OR ANXIOLYTIC ABUSE, IN REMISSION
	F13.21	SEDATIVE, HYPNOTIC OR ANXIOLYTIC DEPENDENCE, IN REMISSION
<b>Cocaine</b>	F14.11	COCAINE ABUSE, IN REMISSION
	F14.21	COCAINE DEPENDENCE, IN REMISSION
<b>Other Stimulants</b>	F15.11	OTHER STIMULANT ABUSE, IN REMISSION
	F15.21	OTHER STIMULANT DEPENDENCE, IN REMISSION
<b>Hallucinogen</b>	F16.11	HALLUCINOGEN ABUSE, IN REMISSION
	F16.21	HALLUCINOGEN DEPENDENCE, IN REMISSION
<b>Nicotine</b>	F17.201	NICOTINE DEPENDENCE, UNSPECIFIED, IN REMISSION
<b>Inhalants</b>	F18.11	INHALANCE ABUSE, IN REMISSION
	F18.21	INHALANCE DEPENDENCE, IN REMISSION
<b>Other Psychotic Substances</b>	F19.11	OTHER PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE ABUSE, IN REMISSION
	F19.21	OTHER PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE DEPENDENCE, IN REMISSION