

Coding of long standing illness, notes on GPs and note on tar level of cigarettes – GHS 2000/01

General Health

Notes on coding long-standing illness

1. Code the current condition as it now affects the informant, not the cause, if the cause is an infection or injury
eg. "Had polio as a child and left with a limp" - code the after effect of polio only.
"Arthritis following severely fractured femur" - code arthritis only.
"Deafness as a result of meningitis" - code deafness only.
2. Code all complaints the informant currently suffers from, even if the informant says that one complaint causes another condition
eg. "Angina, diabetic and high blood pressure" - code all complaints
"Angina. Also suffer from breathlessness" - code both complaints
"Diabetes, therefore sight problems and heart problems" - code all complaints
"Angina, also breathlessness because of this" - code angina only
"Partially paralysed as result of stroke" - code stroke only
"Back problems - arthritis of spine" - code arthritis only
"Leg trouble - varicose veins" - code varicose veins only
3. Operations: Code the cause of the operation unless the informant actually states that this no longer troubles him/her, or that the operation has resulted in another problem.
eg. "Eye operation for cataracts" - code cataracts
"Operation for cancer of bowel" - code cancer
"Effects of cancer operation" - code cancer
"2 replacement hips for arthritis" - code arthritis (unless there is an indication that it is now the replacement hips which are the problem)
"Had cancer operation 2 years ago - apart from going for checks it doesn't trouble me now" - ignore cancer, use code 42 if this is the only complaint mentioned.
4. Complaints no longer present If the informant actually states that he/she no longer suffers from the complaint, use code 42 if this is the only complaint given; if another complaint is given, ignore this complaint.
eg. "Tonsil trouble but now resolved after removal" - use code 42 (complaint no longer present)
"Migraine. Used to suffer from asthma as child but haven't had it since" - code migraine only

But if the informant says the complaint no longer troubles him/her, and the complaint is still present but kept under control by medication, code the complaint.

- eg. "Epilepsy, kept under control by drugs" - code epilepsy
"Used to suffer from dizzy spells - takes medicine" - code dizzy spells

5. Injury/war wound: Code the site of the injury unless a past injury now causes a present complaint.

- eg. "Gun shot wounds in shoulder" - code 36
"Whip lash injury to neck" - code 35
"Paraplegic as result of rugby accident" - code paraplegic
"Rheumatism in leg - broke it when a child" - code rheumatism

6. Old age: Ignore old age if another complaint is given, but use code 41 if it is the only answer given and there are no other codable complaints.

- eg. "Diabetes and old age" - code diabetes only
"Weak with old age, difficulty walking" - code difficulty walking
"Frail - old age" - use code 41

7. Code what the informant thinks or suspects to be the complaint or cause.

- eg. "Suspected diabetes" - code diabetes
"Pain in knee - think it is arthritis" - code arthritis

8. Code 41 (unclassifiable) is single coded. Ignore unclassifiable complaints if a codable complaint is also given eg "arthritis, allergies" - code arthritis only.

9. It is acceptable to use code 42 (complaint no longer present) when LimitAct is coded Yes.

Long-standing illness

Variable name ICD1 to ICD6

MC COMPLAINT

- 1 Cancer (neoplasm) including lumps, masses, tumours and growths and benign (non-malignant) lumps and cysts**
incl. leukaemia (cancer of the blood)
Hodgkin's disease
Lymphoma
cystic hygroma
acoustic neuroma
Neurofibromatosis
hereditary cancer
Cancers sited in any part of the body or system eg. lung cancer, breast cancer, stomach cancer, skin cancer, bone cancer
All tumours, growths, masses, lumps and cysts whether malignant or benign eg. tumour of brain, growth in bowel, growth on spinal cord, lump in breast, cyst on eye, cyst in kidney
Wilms tumour
rodent ulcers
sarcomas, carcinomas
mastectomy (nes)
hysterectomy for cancer of womb
colostomy caused by cancer
part of intestines removed (cancer)
after affect of cancer (nes)
- 2 Diabetes**
incl. Hyperglycemia
- 3 Other endocrine/metabolic**
incl. underactive/overactive thyroid, goitre, thyrotoxicosis
hormone deficiency, deficiency of growth hormone, dwarfism
Beckwith-Wiedemann syndrome
Addison's disease
Cushing's syndrome
Gilbert's syndrome
Coeliac disease
phenylketonuria
Cystic fibrosis
AIDS, AIDS carrier, HIV positive
Graves disease
rickets
Hashimoto's disease
obesity/overweight
Malacia
gout
Wilson's disease
water/fluid retention

Myxoedema (nes)
hypopotassaemia, lack of potassium
hypercalcemia

NB Thyroid trouble and tiredness - code 3 only
Overactive thyroid and swelling in neck - code 3 only

4 Mental illness/anxiety/depression/nerves(nes) (include neuroses)

incl. schizophrenia, manic depressive
senile dementia, forgetfulness, gets confused
nervous breakdown, neurasthenia, nervous trouble
anxiety, panic attacks
stress
nerves (nes)
depression
phobias
autistic child
anorexia nervosa
alcoholism, recovered not cured alcoholic
drug addict
speech impediment, stammer
dyslexia
hyperactive child
catalepsy
concussion syndrome
bulimia

NB Alzheimer's disease, degenerative brain disease = code 8

5 Learning difficulties

incl. Down's syndrome, mongol
mental handicap/retardation

6 Epilepsy/fits/convulsions

incl. grand mal, petit mal, Jacksonian fit, blackouts, febrile convulsions, fit (nes)

7 Migraine/headaches

8 Other problems of nervous system

incl. Multiple sclerosis (MS), disseminated sclerosis
Cerebral palsy (spastic)
Spina bifida
Physically handicapped - spasticity of all limbs
Hydrocephalus, microcephaly, fluid on brain
Parkinson's disease (paralysis agitans)
Motor neurone disease
muscular dystrophy
Huntington's chorea
Alzheimer's disease, degenerative brain disease
Friedreich's Ataxia
Abscess on brain
Brain damage resulting from infection (eg meningitis,encephalitis) or injury

injury to spine resulting in paralysis
paraplegia (paralysis of lower limbs)
partially paralysed (nes)
metachromatic leucodystrophy
Myotonic dystrophy
Guillain-Barre syndrome
Myasthenia gravis
syringomyelia
myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME)
post viral syndrome (ME)
Bell's palsy
neuropathy
trigeminal neuralgia
neuralgia, neuritis
carpal tunnel syndrome
sciatica
trapped nerve
numbness/loss of feeling in fingers, hand, leg etc
pins and needles in arm
removal of nerve in arm
shingles
restless legs
narcolepsy (falling asleep)

- 9 **Cataract/poor eye sight/blindness****
incl. operation for cataracts, now need glasses
bad eyesight/nearly blind because of cataracts
hardening of lens
lens implants in both eyes
bad eyesight, restricted vision, partially sighted
short sighted, long sighted, myopia
trouble with eyes (nes), eyes not good (nes)
blind in one eye, loss of one eye
blindness caused by diabetes
detached/scarred retina
tunnel vision
blurred vision

- 10 **Other eye complaints****
incl. glaucoma
buphthalmos
iritis
retinitis pigmentosa
night blindness
astigmatism
double vision
colour blind
squint, lazy eye
Duanes syndrome
scarred cornea, corneal ulcers
haemorrhage behind eye

dry eye syndrome, trouble with tear ducts, watery eyes
eyes are light sensitive
injury to eye
eye infection, conjunctivitis
sty on eye
floater in eye

11 Poor hearing/deafness

incl. hard of hearing, slightly deaf
conductive/nerve/noise induced deafness
deaf and dumb
otosclerosis
poor hearing after mastoid operation

12 Tinnitus/noises in the ear

incl. pulsing in the ear

13 Meniere's disease/ear complaints causing balance problems

incl. labyrinthitis
loss of balance - inner ear
vertigo
vestibulitis

14 Other ear complaints

incl. otitis media
glue ear
disorders of Eustachian tube
perforated ear drum (nes)
middle/inner ear problems
mastoiditis
ear trouble (nes), ear problem (wax)
ear aches and discharges
ear infection

15 Stroke/cerebral haemorrhage/cerebral thrombosis

incl. stroke victim - partially paralysed and speech difficulty
hemiplegia, apoplexy, cerebral embolism
cerebro-vascular accident

16 Heart attack/angina

incl. coronary thrombosis, myocardial infarction

17 Hypertension/high blood pressure/blood pressure (nes)

18 Other heart problems

incl. heart disease, heart complaint, heart failure
cardiac problems, heart trouble (nes)
weak heart because of rheumatic fever
hole in the heart, valvular heart disease
hardening of arteries in heart

Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome
Aortic stenosis, aorta replacement, mitral stenosis
pacemaker implant
pericarditis, Ischaemic heart disease
cardiac diffusion, cardiac asthma
heart murmur, palpitations
tachycardia, sick sinus syndrome
atrial/ventricular fibrillation
tired heart, pains in chest (nes)
dizziness, giddiness, balance problems (nes)
too much cholesterol in blood, high cholesterol
St Vitus dance
NB Balance problems due to ear complaint = code 13

19 Piles/haemorrhoids

incl. varicose veins in anus

20 Varicose veins/phlebitis (lower extremities)

incl. varicose ulcers, varicose eczema

21 Other blood vessels/embolic

incl. arteriosclerosis, hardening of arteries (nes)
artificial arteries (nes)
arterial thrombosis, thrombosis (nes)
blocked arteries in leg
Raynaud's disease
pulmonary embolism, blood clots (nes)
intermittent claudication
Wright's syndrome
telangiectasia (nes)
polyarteritis nodosa
swollen legs and feet
gangrene
low blood pressure/hypotension
Kawasaki syndrome
hypersensitive to the cold
Takayasu disease
poor circulation
varicose veins in oesophagus
NB Haemorrhage behind eye = code 10

22 Bronchitis/emphysema

incl. chronic bronchitis, bronchiectasis

23 Asthma

incl. bronchial asthma, allergic asthma
asthma - allergy to house dust/grass/cat fur
NB Exclude cardiac asthma - code 18

24 Hayfever

incl. allergic rhinitis

- 25 Other respiratory complaints**
 incl. bronchial trouble, chest trouble(nes)
 bad chest (nes), weak chest - wheezy
 breathlessness
 pneumoconiosis, byssinosis, asbestosis and other industrial respiratory diseases,
 pigeon fanciers' lung
 lung complaint (nes), lung problems (nes)
 damaged lung (nes), lost lower lobe of left lung
 lung damage by viral pneumonia
 fibrosis of lung
 ulcer on lung, fluid on lung
 furred up airways, collapsed lung
 chest infections, get a lot of colds
 recurrent pleurisy
 sinus trouble, sinusitis
 rhinitis (nes)
 catarrh
 adenoid problems, nasal polyps
 sore throat, pharyngitis, tonsillitis
 throat trouble (nes), throat irritation
 throat infection
 abscess on larynx
 coughing fits
 allergy to dust/cat fur (nes)
 paralysis of vocal cords
 croup
NB TB (pulmonary tuberculosis) - code 37
 Cystic fibrosis - code 3
 Skin allergy - code 39
 Food allergy - code 27
 Allergy (nes) - code 41
 Pilonidal sinus - code 39
 Sick sinus syndrome - code 18
 Whooping cough - code 37
 If complaint is breathlessness with the cause also stated, code the cause -
 eg breathlessness as a result of anaemia - code 38
 breathlessness due to hole in heart - code 18
 breathlessness due to angina - code 16
- 26 Stomach ulcer/ulcer (nes)/abdominal hernia/rupture**
 incl. gastric/duodenal/peptic ulcer
 ulcer (nes)
 double/inguinal/diaphragm/hiatus/umbilical hernia
 hernia (nes), rupture (nes)
- 27 Other digestive complaints (stomach, liver, pancreas, bile ducts,small intestine - duodenum, jejunum and ileum)**
 incl. stomach trouble (nes), abdominal trouble (nes)
 indigestion, heart burn, dyspepsia
 nervous stomach, acid stomach

inflamed duodenum
weakness in intestines
ileostomy
pancreas problems
throat trouble - difficulty in swallowing
stone in gallbladder, gallbladder problems
liver disease, biliary artesia
cirrhosis of the liver, liver problems
twisted gullet
food allergies

28 Complaints of bowel/colon (large intestine, caecum, bowel, colon, rectum)

incl. colitis, colon trouble, ulcerative colitis
spastic colon
enteritis
diverticulitis
irritable bowel, inflammation of bowel
polyp on bowel
colostomy (nes)
Crohn's disease
Hirschsprung's disease
frequent diarrhoea, constipation
faecal incontinence/encopresis
grumbling appendix
NB exclude piles - code 19
Cancer of stomach/bowel - code 1

29 Complaints of teeth/mouth/tongue

incl. impacted wisdom tooth, gingivitis
ulcers on tongue, mouth ulcers
cleft palate, cleft lip, hare lip, no sense of taste

30 Kidney complaints

incl. kidney trouble, tube damage, stone in the kidney
nephritis, pyelonephritis
chronic renal failure
uraemia
renal TB
horseshoe kidney, cystic kidney
only one kidney, double kidney on right side
Goodpasture's syndrome
Laurence-Moon(-Biedl) syndrome

31 Urinary tract infection

incl. cystitis, urine infection

32 Other bladder problems/incontinence

incl. weak bladder, bladder complaint (nes)
bladder restriction
bed wetting, enuresis
water trouble (nes)

NB Prostate trouble - code 33

33 Reproductive system disorders

incl. endometriosis
prolapsed womb
prolapse (nes) if female
vaginitis, vulvitis, dysmenorrhoea
gynaecological problems
menopause
hysterectomy (nes)
period problems, flooding, premenstrual tension
abscess on breast, mastitis, cracked nipple
damaged testicles
prostate gland trouble
impotence, infertility
Turner's syndrome
pelvic inflammatory disease (female)

34 Arthritis/rheumatism/fibrositis

incl. arthritis/rheumatism in any part of the body
osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, polymyalgia rheumatica
psoriasis arthritis (also code psoriasis)
Still's disease
rheumatic symptoms
arthritis as result of broken limb

35 Back problems/slipped disc/spine/neck

incl. back trouble, lower back problems, back ache
spondylitis, spondylosis, cervical spondylitis
prolapsed intervertebral discs
worn discs in spine - affects legs
damage, fracture or injury to back/spine/neck
curvature of spine
lumbago, inflammation of spinal joint
disc trouble
Schuermann's disease
laminectomy (nes)
NB Exclude if damage/injury to spine results in paralysis - code 8
Sciatica - code 8
Trapped nerve in spine - code 8

36 Other problems of bones/joints/muscles

incl. osteomyelitis
brittle bones, osteoporosis
Pierre Robin syndrome
Paget's disease
Perthe's disease
Schlatter's disease
Sever's disease
dislocation eg dislocation of hip, clunky hip, dislocated knee/finger

fracture, damage or injury to extremities, ribs, collarbone, pelvis, skull eg knee injury, broken leg, gun shot wounds in leg and shoulder, can't hold left arm outflat - broke it as a child, broken nose, deviated septum
absence or loss of limb eg lost leg in war, finger amputated, born without arms
deformity of limbs eg club foot, clawhand, malformed jaw
walk with limp as a result of polio, polio (nes), afteraffects of polio (nes)
Systemic sclerosis, myotonia (nes)
disseminated lupus
hip replacement (nes)
hip infection, TB hip
torn muscle in leg, torn ligaments, tendinitis
bad shoulder, bad leg, collapsed knee cap, knee cap removed
cartilage problems
frozen shoulder
aching arm, stiff arm, sore arm muscle
strained leg muscles, pain in thigh muscles
stiff joints, joint pains, contraction of sinews
muscle wastage
Dupuytren's contraction
bursitis, housemaid's knee, tennis elbow
delayed healing of bones or badly set fractures
weak legs, leg trouble, pain in legs
legs won't go, difficulty in walking
cramp in hand
physically handicapped (nes)
flat feet, bunions
chondrodystrophia
tenosynovitis
Sudeck's atrophy
Nager-reynier syndrome (congenital deformity of skull & face bones)
Sjorgrens syndrome
NB Muscular dystrophy - code 8

37 Infectious and parasitic disease

incl. pulmonary tuberculosis (TB)
tuberculosis of abdomen
sarcoidosis
toxoplasmosis (nes)
viral hepatitis
glandular fever
malaria
typhoid fever
tetanus
venereal diseases, herpes
thrush, candida
athlete's foot, fungal infection of nail
ringworm
whooping cough
Aspergillosis
Behcet syndrome

NB After affect of poliomyelitis, meningitis, encephalitis -code to site/system
Ear/throat infections etc - code to site

- 38 Disorders of blood and blood forming organs**
incl. anaemia, pernicious anaemia
sickle cell anaemia/disease
thalassaemia
haemophilia
purpura (nes)
blood condition (nes), blood deficiency
polycythaemia (blood thickening), blood too thick
removal of spleen
removal of lymph gland (nes)
Allergic vaculitis
Christmas disease
NB Leukaemia - code 1

- 39 Skin complaints**
incl. eczema
psoriasis, psoriasis arthritis (also code arthritis)
dermatitis
epidermolysis, bulosa
pilonidal sinusitis
impetigo
acne
skin rashes and irritations
skin allergies, leaf rash, angio-oedema
skin ulcer, ulcer on limb (nes)
birth mark
burned arm (nes)
cellulitis (nes)
carbuncles, boils, warts, verruca
corns, callouses
ingrown toenail
chilblains
abscess in groin
Stevens-Johnson syndrome
NB Rodent ulcer - code 1
Varicose ulcer, varicose eczema - code 20

- 40 Other complaints**
incl. insomnia
sleepwalking
fainting
adhesions
hair falling out, alopecia
travel sickness
nose bleeds
no sense of smell
no speech, dumb
NB Deaf and dumb - code 11 only

- 41 Unclassifiable** (no other codable complaint)
 incl. old age/weak with old age
 general infirmity
 allergy (nes), allergic reaction to some drugs (nes)
 war wound (nes), road accident injury (nes)
 tiredness (nes)
 generally run down (nes)
 weight loss (nes)
 after effects of meningitis (nes)
 had meningitis - left me susceptible to other things (nes)
 electrical treatment on cheek (nes)
 swollen glands (nes)
 embarrassing itch (nes)
 glass in head - too near temple to be removed (nes)

42 Complaint no longer present

NB Only use this code if it is actually stated that the complaint no longer affects the informant.

Exclude if complaint is kept under control by medication - code to site/system.

-8 Refusal/No answer

Grouped GHS codes to form ICD condition groups

GHS ICD code	ICD condition group
37	Infectious diseases
1	Neoplasms and benign growths
2,3	Endocrine and metabolic
38	Blood and related organs
4,5	Mental disorders
6,7,8	Nervous system
9,10	Eye complaints
11-14	Ear complaints
15-21	Heart and circulatory system
22-25	Respiratory system
26-29	Digestive system
30-33	Genito-urinary system
39	Skin complaints
34-36	Musculoskeletal system
40,41	Other complaints

Notes on use of services

DocTalk

1. To avoid duplication:
If the doctor sees a relative of the patient, and not the patient him or herself, the visit should be coded on the relative's questionnaire (if in the household).

Where the doctor visits a house and examines a patient and, at the same visit, talks to another member of the household about the patient, the visit should be shown only on the questionnaire of the patient.

2. Doctors seen at clinics:
The question is intended to cover visits to doctors in their own practices only. If it emerges, at GP or DocWhere for example, that the doctor was seen at a hospital clinic or a district health authority clinic, delete this consultation (unless the doctor functions as a GP to hospital staff and informant is on hospital staff, in which case accept). Also delete if the doctor was only seen at a blood donor session, or it was a follow-up visit to informant's home by a hospital doctor (eg for TB or VD).

Include if the child was seen by a doctor at a school clinic but exclude visits to a child welfare clinic run by a Local Authority.

3. Medicals:
Accept these regardless of who they are for (eg insurance company, employer, DSS) or where they are held.
4. Making appointments:
Visits or phone calls to the doctor to book appointments or arrange home visits should be deleted unless the doctor was actually spoken to about a health problem.

GP

Recode answers given at XGP where possible. Otherwise leave in code 3.

Include in code 1: Doctors/locums forming part of the general practitioners emergency service as they perform the functions of a GP.

Include in code 2: Consultant (unless seen at a hospital, in which case delete)

Include in code 3: Forces Medical Officers; School doctor - at school; Company/works doctor - at work

DocWhere

Include in code 2: Seen in relative's/friend's home

InPatnt

Exclude inpatient stays in a hospital abroad.

Tar level codes

Cigarette brand is listed by the interviewer and then coded during the interview using tar level data from the 1999 list issued by the LGC (the most recent data available at the time of the beginning of the fieldwork). This was then updated during editing using the 2000 LGC list (<http://www.doh.gov.uk/scoth/technicaladvisorygroup/tnco.htm>). Where the 2000 list did not give information for a particular brand the data was retained from the 1999 list.