

# Documentation and Reporting

## Autism Spectrum Disorder

### DOCUMENTATION TIPS

Developmental screening affords the provider the ability to promptly and accurately identify and diagnosis conditions on the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).<sup>2,3</sup> Although behavioral issues may be identified more easily than a specific diagnosis; there are signs of autism that providers should assess fully to specifically document and report the condition.

#### Diagnostic criteria

- A. Persistent deficits in social communication and interaction across multiple situations, currently or historically, as manifested by the following (examples are illustrative, not exhaustive):
  - Deficits in social-emotional reciprocity, ranging, for example from abnormal social approach and failure of normal conversation; to reduced sharing of interests, emotions, or affect; to failure to initiate or respond to social interactions.
  - Deficits in nonverbal communicative behaviors used for social interaction, ranging from poorly integrated verbal and nonverbal communication; to abnormalities in eye contact and body language or deficits in understanding and use of gestures; to a total lack of facial expressions and nonverbal communication.
  - Deficits in developing, maintaining, and understanding relationships, range from difficulties adjusting behavior to suite various social situations to difficulties in sharing imaginative play or in making friends; to absence of interest in peers.
- B. Restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests or activities as manifested by at least **two** of the following, either currently or historically:
  - Stereotyped or repetitive motor movements, use of objects, or speech.
  - Insistence on sameness, inflexible adherence to routines, or ritualized patterns of verbal or nonverbal behavior.
  - Highly restricted, fixated interests that are abnormal in intensity or focus.
  - Hyper- or hypo-reactivity to sensory input or unusual interest in sensory aspects of the environment.
- C. Symptoms must be present in the early developmental period.
- D. Symptoms cause clinically significant impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of current functioning.

ICD-10-CM Code	Description
F84.0	Autistic disorder
F84.2	Rett's syndrome
F84.3	Other childhood disintegrative disorder
F84.5	Asperger's syndrome
F84.8	Other pervasive developmental disorders
F84.9	Pervasive developmental disorder <i>Atypical autism</i>

Document and report any associated medical conditions and intellectual disabilities. Categories F70 – F79 may be used to report intellectual disabilities of mild to profound severity.

## Severity Reporting

Severity is based on social communication impairments and restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior.<sup>4</sup>

Level 3: Severe deficits requiring very substantial support

Level 2: Marked deficits requiring substantial support

Level 1: Noticeable deficits requiring support

## Screening for Autism

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends developmental screening for all children during regular well-child visits at 9, 18 and 30 months of age. Additionally, all children should be screened specifically for ASD during regular well-child doctor visits at 18 and 24 months of age.

Developmental screening tools for autism are available through many websites, including:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)

## DOCUMENTATION AND REPORTING EXAMPLE

5-year old male diagnosed with autism at age 3. Parents maintain strict routine for stability. Patient exhibits rocking behavior. Standing referral for speech and occupational therapy. Family participates in group cognitive behavior therapy, will meet with dietitian for healthy diet planning.

F84.0 Autistic disorder

F98.4 Stereotyped movement disorders

According to the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY2022 “A dash (-) at the end of an alphabetic index entry indicates that additional characters are required.” Refer to the tabular list to identify the appropriate character(s) that will complete the diagnosis code.

1. ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting FY2022. 1 Oct. 2021, [www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2022-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2022-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf). Accessed 30 Nov. 2021.
2. Centers for Disease Control. Autism Spectrum Disorder. <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/screening.html>. Accessed September 29, 2021.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Developmental Monitoring and Screening. <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/Dev-Mon-and-Screen-English-and-Spanish-P.pdf>. Accessed September 29, 2021.
4. American Psychiatric Association. Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition. Washington, DC, American Psychiatric Publishing, 2013.