

WARFIGHTER BRAIN INJURY AND EXPOSURE: Coding Quick Reference for the Primary Care Manager

Traumatic Brain Injury Center of Excellence

Step 1 Select either the screening or ONE diagnosis code. If no screening was performed but a hazardous exposure on an asymptomatic patient needs to be documented, skip to Step 3.

Screening: Exposure without AOC, LOC, or PTA

- Z13.850 (choose when screening is negative)

AOC = Alteration of Consciousness, LOC = Loss of Consciousness, PTA = Post-Traumatic Amnesia

Diagnosis: Exposure with AOC, LOC, or PTA

- Injury occurred ≤ 90 days:
 - S06.0X_A (First visit)
 - S06.0X_D (Follow-up)
- Injury occurred > 90 days:
 - S06.0X_S

Consider including the primary blast injury of the brain code (S06.8A0_/S06.8A1_) when blast exposure has injured other pressure-sensitive organs such as the ear, lung, or colon.

Step 2 Select all the symptoms the patient endorses. The table below lists symptom and diagnosis codes commonly associated with mild TBI.

COGNITIVE		BEHAVIORAL/EMOTIONAL		HEADACHE	
R41.0	Disorientation, unspecified	F10.9_	Alcohol use, unspecified	G43.001 – G43.919	Migraine headache
R41.84_	Other specified cognitive deficit (e.g., communication, attention, psychomotor, visuospatial)	F32._	Depression	G44.201 – G44.229	Tension-type headache
R41.9	Unspecified symptoms and signs involving cognitive functions and awareness	F41._	Other anxiety disorders	G44.30_	Post-traumatic headache, unspecified
HEARING/VESTIBULAR		F43._	Reaction to severe stress and adjustment disorders	G44.4_	Medication overuse headache
H81.1_	Benign paroxysmal positional vertigo	R45.0	Nervousness	G44.86	Cervicogenic headache
H81.39_	Other peripheral vertigo	R45.1	Restlessness and agitation	VISION	
H81.4	Vertigo of central origin	R45.4	Irritability and anger	H53.14_	Visual discomfort (eye strain or fatigue, photophobia)
H81.9_	Unspecified disorder of vestibular functions	R45.86	Emotional lability	H53.19	Other subjective visual disturbance (halo)
H91.9_	Unspecified hearing loss	R45.87	Impulsiveness	H53.2	Diplopia
H93.1_	Tinnitus	R45.89	Other symptoms and signs involving emotional state	H53.8	Other visual disturbances
H93.23_	Hyperacusis	SLEEP		H55._ _	Nystagmus and other irregular eye movements
R26.81	Unsteadiness on feet	G47.00	Insomnia, unspecified	OTHER PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS	
R42	Dizziness	G77.01	Insomnia due to a medical condition	R11.0	Nausea
		G47.20	Circadian rhythm sleep disorder, unspecified	R11.1_	Vomiting
		G47.33	Obstructive sleep apnea	R43._	Disturbance of smell and taste
		G47.9	Sleep disorder, unspecified	R53.83	Fatigue

Step 3 Select all the external causes of morbidity and health status codes that best match the exposure or injury circumstance, place, and mechanism. While there are thousands of codes available, the most common mild TBI and emerging hazardous exposures-related codes are listed in the table below.

R44.9 / R29.90	Anomalous Health Incidents
V89.2XX_	Person injured in unspecified motor-vehicle accident
V97.22X_	Parachutist injured on landing
W49.9XX_	G-forces
W01.198_	Fall on same level from slipping, tripping and stumbling with subsequent striking against other object
W20.8XX_	Other cause of strike by thrown, projected or falling object
W22.8XX_	Striking against or struck by other objects
W50.0XX_	Accidental hit or strike by another person
Y36.90X_	Combat activities
Y36.A1X_ / Y37.A1X_	Low-level blast
Y36.A2X_ / Y37.A2X_	High-level blast
Y92.84	Military training activities
Y93.79	Activity, other specified sports and athletics
Y99.1	Non-combat military activities
Y99.8	Off-duty activities
Z56.82	Deployed
Z77.41	Exposure to low-level blast (no injury)
Z77.42	Exposure to high-level blast (no injury)

Step 4 If personal history of (prior) TBI, add code Z87.820.

Scan the QR code to view the full "ICD-10-CM Coding Guidance: Warfighter Brain Injury and Exposures"

