

Tips & Tricks

Find and assign the correct vision and hearing codes

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Glaucoma Guidelines

Assign as many codes from category H40, Glaucoma, as needed to identify the type of glaucoma, the affected eye, and the glaucoma stage.

Section I.C.7.a.1)

*The seventh character “4” is used for glaucomas whose stage **cannot be clinically determined**. This seventh character should not be confused with the seventh character “0”, unspecified, which should be assigned when there is no documentation regarding the stage of the glaucoma.*

Section I.C.7.a.5)

Bilateral Glaucoma Guidelines

*When a patient has bilateral glaucoma and both eyes are documented as being the **same type and stage**, and there is a code for bilateral glaucoma, report only the code for the type of glaucoma, bilateral, with the seventh character for the stage.*

When a patient has bilateral glaucoma and both eyes are documented as being the same type and stage, and the classification does not provide a code for bilateral glaucoma (i.e. subcategories H40.10, ~~H40.11~~ and H40.20) report only one code for the type of glaucoma with the appropriate seventh character for the stage.

Section I.C.7.a.2)

Bilateral Glaucoma Guidelines

*When a patient has bilateral glaucoma and **each eye is documented as having a different type**, and the classification does not distinguish laterality (i.e. subcategories H40.10, ~~H40.11~~ and H40.20), assign one code for each type of glaucoma with the appropriate seventh character for the stage.*

Section I.C.7.a.3)

Bilateral Glaucoma Guidelines

*When a patient has bilateral glaucoma and **each eye is documented as having the same type, but different stage, and the classification does not distinguish laterality (i.e. subcategories H40.10, ~~H40.11~~ and H40.20)**, assign a code for the type of glaucoma for each eye with the seventh character for the specific glaucoma stage documented for each eye.*

Section I.C.7.a.3)

Vision Notes – H54.8

The table below gives a classification of severity of visual impairment recommended by a WHO Study Group on the Prevention of Blindness, Geneva, 6-10 November 1972.

The term 'low vision' in category H54 comprises categories 1 and 2 of the table, the term 'blindness' categories 3, 4 and 5, and the term 'unqualified visual loss' category 9.

If the extent of the visual field is taken into account, patients with a field no greater than 10 but greater than 5 around central fixation should be placed in category 3 and patients with a field no greater than 5 around central fixation should be placed in category 4, even if the central acuity is not impaired.

Category of visual impairment	Visual acuity with best possible correction	
	Maximum less than:	Minimum equal to or better than:
1	6/18 3/10(0.3) 20/70	6/60 1/10(0.1) 20/200
2	6/60 1/10(0.1) 20/200	3/60 1/20(0.05) 20/400
3	3/60 1/20(0.05) 20/400	1/60(finger counting at one meter) 1/50(0.02) 5/300(20/1200)
4	1/60(finger counting at one meter) 1/50(0.02) 5/300	Light perception
5	No light perception	
9	Undetermined or unspecified	