

Coding Tip Sheet for Borderline Diagnosis

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If the provider documents a "borderline" diagnosis at the time of discharge, the diagnosis is coded as confirmed, unless the classification provides a specific entry (e.g., borderline diabetes).

If a borderline condition has a specific index entry in ICD-10-CM, it should be coded as such.

Since borderline conditions are not uncertain diagnoses, no distinction is made between the care setting (inpatient versus outpatient).

Coders should refer to the ICD-10-CM coding book to determine if a borderline condition has a specific "borderline" index entry ICD-10 code assigned.¹

Examples:

- Borderline Diabetes Mellitus has a specific ICD-10 code:
 - Alpha Index: Locate the main term "Borderline"; search the sub-term under Borderline, "diabetes mellitus" - R73.03
 - **Always** verify the code in the Tabular List

- Borderline Personality Disorder has a specific ICD-10 code:
 - Alpha Index: Locate the main term "Borderline"; search the sub-term under Borderline, "Personality" - F60.3
 - **Always** verify the code in the Tabular List
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- Borderline Hyperlipidemia does **NOT** have a specific ICD-10 code:
 - When documented, code as confirmed the ICD-10 code for hyperlipidemia.

¹ w/ ICD-10 Coding Guidelines Section I.B.17
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