

G11.11: NEW ICD-10-CM (DIAGNOSIS) CODE FOR FRIEDREICH'S ATAXIA EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2020

CALL TO ACTION

Starting on October 1, 2020, you can use G11.11 to document the diagnosis of FA for your patients. Please update your patients' medical records and include G11.11 on your billing encounter sheets. Your department for coding and billing should use G11.11 to document patients' confirmed diagnoses of FA when submitting health insurance claims to payers.

Clinicians can use multiple ICD-10 diagnosis codes based on patients' need for medical care (e.g. G11.11 – FA, I49.9 - cardiac arrhythmia, Z13.1 – encounter for screening for diabetes mellitus).

Please email info@curefa.org if you have questions regarding use of G11.11

PREVIOUS CODING FOR FRIEDREICH'S ATAXIA

ICD-9 system had a specific code for FA: 334.0

In conversion to ICD-10, the code for FA became *less* specific because it covered a group of conditions described as "early-onset cerebellar ataxias". The previous FA ICD-10 diagnosis code was G11.1.

BENEFITS OF THE NEW FA-SPECIFIC ICD-10-CM CODE G11.11

- Fewer rejected health insurance claims
- Payer coverage determinations without need for direct access to patients' medical records for review of medical necessity
- Monitor adherence to clinical management guidelines and track care outcomes
- Evaluate symptom progression of FA; additional ICD-10 codes can be applied to reflect context of FA diagnosis, such as for falls, surgeries, medications, and co-morbidities
- Enhanced ability to track disease prevalence
- Contribute to health policy decision-making

BACKGROUND ON ICD CODING SYSTEM

ICD = International Classification of Diseases

The ICD coding system was established by the World Health Organization; currently used by ~100 countries for reporting cause of death and epidemiology statistics.

The system contains codes for diseases, symptoms, abnormal findings, social circumstances, and external causes of injury.

ICD-10-CM codes, or diagnosis codes, are used by clinicians to document the need for healthcare services. The codes are used in medical records and for health insurance claims.

