



# Western Australian Coding Rule

## 0716/07 Adverse effect of Champix

WA Coding Rule 0515/01 *Adverse effect of Champix* is superseded by ACCD Coding Rule ***Adverse effect of Champix (varenicline)*** (Ref No: Q2987) effective 1 July 2016; (log in to view on the [ACCD CLIP portal](#)).

### DECISION

**WA Coding Rule 0515/01 *Adverse effect of Champix* is retired.**

[Effective 1 Jul 2016, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 9<sup>th</sup> Ed.]



# Western Australian Coding Rule

## 0515/01 Adverse effect of Champix

### Q.

What should an adverse effect of Champix (varenicline) be coded to? The patient was vomiting as a result of the drug and the doctor ceased the medication.

### A.

Varenicline (trade name Champix) is an oral drug that is used to promote cessation of smoking. It competes with nicotine from cigarettes for binding to nicotine receptors in the brain (a high affinity partial agonist at nicotinic acetylcholine receptors). Although varenicline stimulates nicotine receptors like nicotine, it blocks the stronger stimulation by nicotine.

Smokers do not experience the full effect of smoking while taking varenicline. There are reduced cravings and reduced withdrawal symptoms. However, there is not enough of the full experience of smoking to produce reinforcement and reward (CNS dopamine mediated). Varenicline site and mode of action is similar to nicotine (i.e. oral nicotine replacement therapy).

There is currently no entry in the Table of drugs and chemicals for varenicline or Champix. Therefore the coder should select the following from the Table:

Drug NEC

- Adverse effect in therapeutic use

This leads to the assignment of Y57.9 *Drug or medicament, unspecified causing adverse effects in therapeutic use*. For the case of vomiting due to Champix, the following codes should be assigned:

R11	<i>Nausea and vomiting</i>
Y57.9	<i>Drug or medicament, unspecified causing adverse effects in therapeutic use</i>
Y92.22	<i>Health service area</i>
U73.8	<i>Injury or poisoning occurring while engaged in other specified activity</i>

## DECISION

**Adverse effects of Champix (varenicline) in therapeutic use should be assigned an external cause code of Y57.9 *Drug or medicament, unspecified causing adverse effects in therapeutic use*. Other codes should be assigned in accordance with ACS 1902 *Adverse effects*. This query will be sent to the ACCD.**

[Effective 13 May 2015, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 8<sup>th</sup> Ed.]