



Western Australian Coding Standard

0721/08 Drug Toxicity in therapeutic use

WA Coding Standard 07 - *Drug toxicity in therapeutic use* is retired, effective 1 July 2021.



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WA Coding Standard 07 - Drug toxicity in therapeutic use

Note: Drug toxicity in improper use follows normal coding rules (ACS 1901 *Poisoning* and 1903 *Two or more drugs taken in combination*).

This WA Coding Standard addresses drug toxicity in therapeutic use only. (Exception: anticoagulants in therapeutic use – see ACS 0303 *Abnormal coagulation profile due to anticoagulants*). Poisoning in therapeutic use, so stated, is always coded to poisoning (T36-T50 *Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances*).

Toxicity in therapeutic use may occur through accumulation of drugs reaching toxic levels. There may be neither documentation of improper use by the patient nor any documentation of prescription error or dosage error on the part of clinical staff.

Where the terms 'toxicity' or 'intoxication' are used in therapeutic use, follow the appropriate rule:

1. Toxicology results in the toxic range - assign a code for poisoning (T36-T50) with an external cause code from Y40-Y59, or
2. Toxicology results are within the therapeutic range - code specific adverse effects (ACS 1902 *Adverse effects*), or
3. No toxicology results - default to poisoning (T36-T50) with an external cause code from Y40-Y59.

Clinical advice may be sought at the coder's discretion. For example, patients may exhibit clinical manifestations of systemic poisoning, with borderline toxicology results.