



ICD-10 Diagnostic Coding Guidance for Traumatic Brain Injury

DoD TBI Definition

A traumatically induced structural injury or physiological disruption of brain function as a result of external force that is indicated by new onset or worsening of at least one of the following clinical signs immediately following the event:

- Any alteration in mental status (e.g., confusion, disorientation, slowed thinking, etc.)
- Any loss of memory for events immediately before or after the injury
- Any period of loss of or a decreased level of consciousness, observed or self-reported

External forces may include any of the following events: the head being struck by an object, the head striking an object, the brain undergoing an acceleration/deceleration movement without direct external trauma to the head or forces generated from events such as a blast explosion, including penetrating injuries. (Department of Defense, 2015)

Severity of TBI

The level of injury is based on the status of the patient at the time of injury based on observable signs. Severity of injury does not predict functional or rehabilitative outcome of the patient.

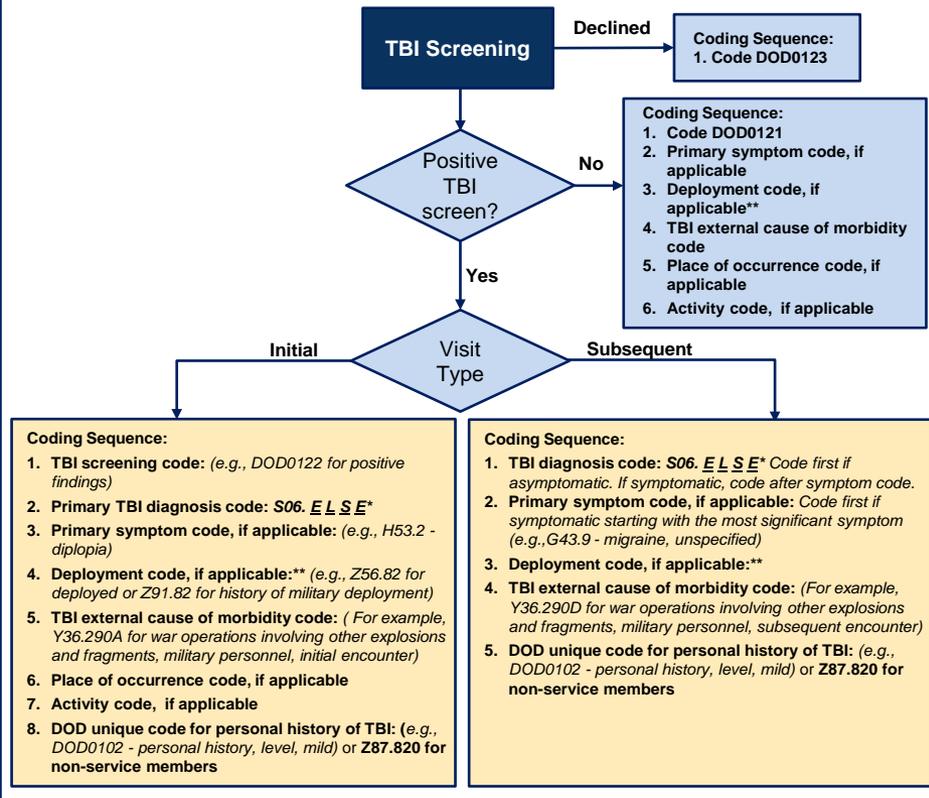
Mild	Moderate	Severe
Normal structural imaging	Normal or abnormal structural imaging	Normal or abnormal structural imaging
LOC = 0 – 30 min	LOC >30 min and <24 hours	LOC >24 hours
AOC = a moment up to 24 hours	AOC >24 hours. Severity based on other criteria	
PTA = 0 – 1 day	PTA >1 and <7 days	PTA >7 days

AOC – Alteration of consciousness/mental state

LOC – Loss of consciousness

PTA – Post-traumatic amnesia

Medical Provider Diagnostic Coding



Rehabilitation Provider Diagnostic Coding

Use this coding sequence for **initial** and **subsequent** visits:

- Primary symptom code:** Code for the presenting complaint (e.g., R41.844 for executive function)
- TBI diagnosis code:** S06. E L S E* (Use A for initial visit, D for subsequent visit, or S for sequela)
- Deployment code, if applicable:**** (e.g., Z56.82 for deployed personnel)
- TBI external cause of morbidity code:** (e.g., V40-V49 for motor vehicle accidents, Y36 for war operations, Y37 for military operations. Use A for the initial visit. For example, Y36.290A for war operations involving other explosions and fragments, military personnel, initial encounter)
- Other symptom codes, if applicable:** (e.g., R41.1 for anterograde amnesia)
- DOD unique code for personal history of TBI:** (e.g., DOD0102 - personal history, level, mild) or Z87.820 for non-service members

*Etiology, Location, Severity, Encounter — see page 2

**Deployment code must fall within the first four codes when applicable



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The ICD-10 Code Tables provide comprehensive guidance on diagnostic and procedure coding.

Find the 2015 Code Tables and Index at www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/2015-ICD-10-CM-and-GEMs.html and www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/2015-ICD-10-PCS-and-GEMs.html.

Etiology, Location, Severity, Encounter (ELSE) Coding Structure			
Category: S06.XXXX			
Etiology		Location	
0	Concussion		
1	Traumatic cerebral edema (diffuse or focal)	X	Placeholder
2	Diffuse TBI/diffuse axonal injury	0	NOS
3	Focal TBI	1	Right
4	Epidural hemorrhage/extradural hemorrhage (NOS or traumatic)	2	Left
5	Traumatic subdural hemorrhage		
6	Traumatic subarachnoid hemorrhage		
Severity		Encounter	
0	No loss of consciousness (LOC)	A	Initial
1	LOC < 30 minutes	D	Subsequent
2	LOC 31 to 59 minutes	S	Sequelae
3	LOC 1 hour to 5 hours 59 minutes		
4	LOC 6 hours to 24 hours		
5	LOC > 24 hours with return to pre-existing conscious level		
6	LOC > 24 hours without return to pre-existing conscious level with patient surviving		
7	LOC of any duration with death due to brain injury prior to regaining consciousness		
8	LOC of any duration with death due to other cause prior to regaining consciousness		
9	LOC of unspecified duration		

DOD Unique Code for Personal History of TBI		
DOD Unique Code	Short Narrative	Long Narrative
Z87.820	Personal hx, TBI, unknown	Personal history of traumatic brain injury (TBI), highest level of severity unknown
DOD0102	Personal hx, TBI, mild	Personal hx of TBI, highest level of severity mild (Glasgow coma scale 13-15), LOC 0-30 min, post-traumatic amnesia <24hrs
DOD0103	Personal hx, TBI, moderate	Personal hx of TBI, highest level of severity moderate (Glasgow coma scale 9-12), LOC >30 min - <24hrs, post-traumatic amnesia 2-7 days
DOD0104	Personal hx, TBI, severe	Personal hx of TBI, highest level of severity severe (Glasgow coma scale 3-8, LOC>24hrs, post-traumatic amnesia >7 days)
DOD0105	Personal hx, TBI, penetrating	Personal hx of TBI, highest level of severity penetrating intracranial wound (no level of severity assigned)

Source: MHS Professional Services and Specialty Medical Coding Guidelines, Version 5.0, Joint Coding Guidance Working Group, April 2015

TBI Screening Code	
DOD0121	Screen, TBI, Negative
DOD0122	Screen, TBI, Positive
DOD0123	Screen, TBI, Declined
Deployment Status Code	
Z56.82	During deployment encounter
Z91.82	History of deployment



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Commonly Use Codes for Symptoms Associated with TBI	
Location Codes: 1 = Right 2 = Left 3 = Bilateral	
Cognitive/Linguistic	
R41.1	Anterograde amnesia
R41.10	Disorientation
R41.2	Retrograde amnesia
R41.84	Other specified cognitive deficit
R41.840	Attention and concentration deficit (excludes ADHD)
R41.841	Cognitive-communication deficit
R41.842	Visuospatial deficit
R41.844	Frontal lobe and executive function deficit
R47.01	Aphasia (excludes aphasia following CVA)
Hearing	
H90.2	Conductive hearing loss, unspecified (add location code as 5 th character)
H90.5	Sensorineural hearing loss, unspecified (add location code as 5 th character)
H90.8	Mixed conductive and sensorineural hearing loss, unspecified (add location code as 5 th character)
H91.9	Unspecified hearing loss (add location code as 5 th character)
H93.23	Hyperacusis (add location code as 6 th character)
H93.1	Tinnitus (audible, aurium, subjective) (add location code as 5 th character)
Neurologic	
H81.4	Vertigo of central origin (add location code as 5 th character)
H81.8X	Other disorders of vestibular function (add location code as 7 th character)
G43	Migraine without aura (G43.0) or with aura (G43.1)
G43.7	Chronic migraine
G43.9	Migraine, unspecified
G44.2	Tension-type headache, episodic (G44.21) or chronic (G44.22)
G44.32	Chronic post-traumatic headache, intractable (G44.321) or not intractable (G44.329)
R43.0	Anosmia

Emotional/Behavioral	
F10.10	Alcohol abuse, uncomplicated
F32.9	Major depressive disorder, single episode, unspecified
F41.1	Generalized anxiety disorder
F43.0	Acute stress reaction
R45.0	Nervousness
R45.1	Restlessness
R45.3	Demoralization and apathy
R45.4	Irritability and anger
R45.5	Hostility
R45.89	Other signs and symptoms involving emotional state
R45.86	Emotional lability
Sleep	
G47.01	Insomnia due to a medical condition
G47.33	Obstructive sleep apnea
G47.20	Circadian rhythm sleep disorder (CRSD), unspecified type. CRSD delayed sleep phase type (G47.21) or advanced sleep phase type (G47.22)
G47.9	Sleep disorder, unspecified
Vision	
H52.7	Disorder of refraction, unspecified
H53.14	Vision discomfort (add location code as 6 th character)
H53.2	Diplopia
H53.4	Other localized visual field defects
H53.8	Other visual disturbances