

According to ICD-10-CM guidelines for coding and reporting, it is inappropriate to bill certain diagnosis codes as a primary or first listed diagnosis. Instead, these codes should always be sequenced as a secondary or subsequent diagnosis. Effective for claims processed on or after February 1, 2025, Carelon Behavioral Health (BH) will apply these correct coding ICD-10-CM guidelines and deny:

- Professional claims submitted on a CMS-1500 form that report inappropriate primary diagnosis codes as the only diagnosis on the claim or claim line; and facility claims submitted on a CMS-1450 form that report inappropriate primary diagnosis codes as the principal diagnosis or only code on the claim.

EOB Message: Denied due to primary diagnosis. If this is a Behavioral Health service, re-submit with a valid primary behavioral health diagnosis. If service is Medical, bill to the medical payor. Per CMS (Federal) correct coding guidelines, specific Supplementary Classification ICD-10 codes cannot be used as the primary diagnosis or as the only diagnosis on the claim.

Purpose of R Codes:

R codes (R00-R99) in the ICD-10-CM system are used to classify symptoms, signs, and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings that don't have a more specific diagnosis.

Not Primary Diagnoses:

ICD-10-CM coding guidelines state that R codes should not be used as the primary or principal diagnosis, meaning they shouldn't be the main reason for a patient's visit or treatment.

Secondary or Supplemental Codes:

R codes can be used as secondary or supplemental diagnoses to provide additional information about a patient's condition, but they should not be the sole diagnosis.

Code	Description	Meets criteria
R46.89	Other symptoms and signs involving appearance and behavior	Does not meet
R46.3	Overactivity - Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory - findings, not elsewhere classified	Does not meet

Focus on "F" Codes:

When coding for behavioral health services, the primary diagnosis should typically be a code from the "F" category, which covers mental and behavioral disorders.