

Introduction

Human trafficking is a public health concern many hospitals and health systems are combating every day. It is a crime occurring when a trafficker exploits an individual with force, fraud or coercion to make them perform commercial work or sex.

Data Collection Challenges

While more and more providers are trained to identify and document victims of forced (labor) or sexual exploitation, the existing ICD-10-CM abuse codes fell short of differentiating victims of human trafficking from other victims of abuse. Without proper codes, there was no way for clinicians to classify adequately a diagnosis and to plan for the resources necessary to provide appropriate treatment. This also prevented critical tracking of the incidence and/or reoccurrence of labor or sexual exploitation of individuals.

What's New

As urged by the AHA's Hospitals Against Violence initiative, the first ICD-10-CM codes for classifying human trafficking abuse were released in June 2018. AHA's Central Office on ICD-10, in partnership with Catholic Health Initiatives and Massachusetts General Hospital's Human Trafficking Initiative and Freedom Clinic, proposed the change. Effective FY 2019, unique ICD-10-CM codes are available for data collection on adult or child forced labor or sexual exploitation, either confirmed or suspected. These new codes, which drew support from other hospitals and health systems, may be assigned in addition to other existing ICD-10-CM codes for abuse, neglect and other maltreatment. In addition, new codes are also available for past history of labor or sexual exploitation, encounter for examination and observation of exploitation ruled out, and an external cause code to identify multiple, repeated, perpetrators of maltreatment and neglect.

Required Action

- As coding professionals review a patient's medical record to identify the appropriate ICD-10-CM codes to include, they should be aware of and begin utilizing the ICD-10-CM codes for forced labor and sexual exploitation, listed in Table 1.

- Hospitals and health systems should educate necessary individuals, including physicians, nurses, other health care providers, and coding professionals of the important need to collect data on forced labor or sexual exploitation of individuals.
- Tracking confirmed and suspected cases in the health care system will allow hospitals and health systems to better track victim needs and identify solutions to improve the health of their communities. It also provides another source for data collection to inform public policy and prevention efforts, as well as support the systemic development of an infrastructure for services and resources.

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Key Terms

Key Terms Related to Human Trafficking Found in Medical Documentation

- Human trafficking
- Labor trafficking
- Sex trafficking
- Commercial sexual exploitation
- Forced commercial sexual exploitation
- Forced prostitution
- Forced sexual exploitation
- Forced labor exploitation
- Exploitation of manual labor
- Exploitation of sexual labor
- Exploitation for manual labor
- Exploitation for commercial sex
- Domestic servitude
- Labor exploitation for domestic work
- Force labor exploitation for domestic work

Table 1

Human Trafficking

ICD-10-CM Code Categories

ICD-10-CM Code/ Subcategory	Title
T74.51*	Adult forced sexual exploitation, confirmed
T74.52*	Child sexual exploitation, confirmed
T74.61*	Adult forced labor exploitation, confirmed
T74.62*	Child forced labor exploitation, confirmed
T76.51*	Adult forced sexual exploitation, suspected
T76.52*	Child sexual exploitation, suspected
T76.61*	Adult forced labor exploitation, suspected
T76.62*	Child forced labor exploitation, suspected
Y07.6	Multiple perpetrators of maltreatment and neglect
Z04.81	Encounter for examination and observation of victim following forced sexual exploitation
Z04.82	Encounter for examination and observation of victim following forced labor exploitation
Z62.813	Personal history of forced labor or sexual exploitation in childhood
Z91.42	Personal history of forced labor or sexual exploitation

*Subcategories require additional characters for specific codes. Please refer to ICD-10-CM for complete codes

The AHA has also developed numerous tools and resources to help hospitals and health systems combat human trafficking in their communities.

For access to these resources, please visit <https://www.aha.org/combating-human-trafficking>.