



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Health**

# Western Australian Coding Rule

## 0722/08 Drug seeking behaviour

IHPA Coding Rule ***Drug seeking behaviour*** (Ref No: Q3315) was retired on 30 June 2022.

In 12<sup>th</sup> Edition, an ICD-10-AM Alphabetic Index entry has been created for Behaviour, drug seeking.



# Western Australian Coding Rule

## 1218/07 Drug seeking behaviour

WA Coding Rule 0713/07 *Drug seeking behaviour* is superseded by ACCD Coding Rule **Drug seeking behaviour** (Ref No: Q3315) effective 1 January 2019; (log in to view on the [ACCD CLIP portal](#)).

### DECISION

**WA Coding Rule 0713/07 *Drug seeking behaviour* is retired.**

[Effective 1 Jan 2019, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 10<sup>th</sup> Ed.]

RETIRED



# Western Australian Coding Rule

## 0713/07 Drug seeking behaviour

### Q.

A patient was admitted to the Emergency Department with a principal diagnosis of: Drug seeking behaviour. He claimed to be bipolar and that he needed strong medication for back pain. A psychiatric evaluation concluded that he was exhibiting drug seeking behaviour.

The patient was also described as having a history of amphetamine and Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) abuse. The patient requested olanzapine, valium and oxazepam. How should we code this?

### A.

WACCAG agrees with the advice given in the 3rd edition database to code drug seeking behaviour to R46.8 *Other symptoms and signs involving appearance and behaviour*. However we would like to emphasise that drug seeking behaviour is often a symptom of a drug use disorder and should be coded as such if such a disorder is documented (i.e. harmful use, dependence, withdrawal). We would also question the validity of admitting a patient specifically for drug seeking behaviour without documentation of a drug use disorder.

### DECISION

**Drug seeking behaviour should be coded to R46.8 *Other symptoms and signs involving appearance and behaviour*.**

[Effective 10 Jul 2013, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 8<sup>th</sup> Ed.]