

Appropriate Use of Manifestation Codes Overview

When choosing and assigning diagnosis codes, it's important to choose the **correct** codes to make sure your claims process efficiently and without any issues. BlueCross promotes correct claims coding, including the appropriate use of manifestation codes. Manifestation codes describe the manifestation of an underlying disease, not the disease itself.

Use the following ICD-10-CM Manual instructions for manifestation codes:

- Do not report a manifestation code as the only diagnosis.
- Do not report a manifestation code as a first-listed or principal diagnosis.
- Code the underlying disease first.
- Manifestation codes are backed by blue highlights in the ICD-10-CM Manual.
 - Please reference the legend at the bottom of the page that shows color highlights and definitions.
- A **“Code first underlying disease”** instructional note will appear with the underlying disease codes identified.
- In the Alphabetic Index, manifestation codes are listed as the secondary code in slanted brackets with the code for the underlying disease listed first.
- For conditions that have both an underlying etiology and multiple body system manifestations (etiology/manifestation convention):
 - The etiology code will have a **“use additional code”** note.
 - The manifestation code will have a **“code first”** note.
 - In most cases, **“in disease classified elsewhere”** will be in the code manifestation title.
 - The code title indicates a manifestation code.
- **“In diseases classified elsewhere”** codes are not to be used as first-listed or principal diagnosis code. They must be used in conjunction with an underlying condition code, following the underlying condition.

Please following these guidelines when submitting claims to avoid claims being denied.