



Factsheet – Statistical activity and published results

Swiss Coding Manual

Description

The Medical Coding Manual contains the coding rules valid in Switzerland. These official coding guidelines are updated every year by an application procedure.
The Medical Coding Manual is published in three languages (German, French and Italian)..
The German publication is the final version of reference.

Methodology

Methodology used

The Medical Coding Manual contains the coding guidelines valid in Switzerland, divided into general and special guidelines for the coding of diseases/diagnoses and treatments/procedures.

The general coding guidelines contain general rules for the coding of diagnoses and treatments. The guidelines define terms such as main and secondary diagnoses, provide information on how to use the classifications (ICD and CHOP) and regulate the procedure for transfers and the merging of cases.

The special coding guidelines contain rules for specific constellations. They include specific requirements or reasons for deviating from the general coding guidelines.

All service providers who deal with the coding of inpatient treatment cases as part of the SpiGes survey and the SwissDRG, TARPSY and ST Reha tariff structures are legally obliged to use the coding guidelines published in the Medical Coding Manual and the official communications.

Variables used

In addition to coding guidelines, the manual contains information on the main variables for the collection of SpiGes data used in the dataset.

The specifications are based on the epidemiological needs of the SpiGes survey as well as the requirements of the tariff structures.

Survey date / period

Publication schedule for the Medical Coding Manual:

- Medical Coding Manual, versions in German, French and Italian: end of September
- YYYY application procedure – Compilation of requests for the further development of the CHOP Classification of Surgical Interventions and the coding guidelines: mid-December
- Additions and clarifications via circulars no. 1 and no. 2: mid-December and end of June

Periodicity of publication

The Medical Coding Manual is published annually and comes into force the following year.

Degree of regionalisation

Switzerland, language regions

Policy on revisions

Routine revision

The annual application procedure is used to request changes to the content and wording of the Medical Coding Manual. The applications are processed under the direction of the FSO in a committee of stakeholders from the Swiss healthcare system. The FSO is responsible for developing the coding manual and its publication. The requested application will be shown at the earliest two years after submission. The Medical Coding Manual is

updated and published every year.
The application process is published on the FSO website.

With definitions and examples, the Medical Coding Manual supports users in the correct recording of diagnoses and treatments for statistical and tariff purposes.

Non-scheduled revision
In the event of nationwide health incidents (e.g. pandemics) requiring urgent adaptations in coding, an official, non-scheduled publication may be necessary.

Legal bases

- Federal Statistics Act (FStatA) of 9 October 1992
- Federal Health Insurance Act (LAMal) of 18 March 1994
- Ordinance on the Conduct of Federal Statistical Surveys of 30 April 2025 (Statistical Surveys Ordinance)

Organisation

Federal Statistical Office (FSO)
Health and Social Affairs Section
Population Health Section (GESB)
Medical Classification Group
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