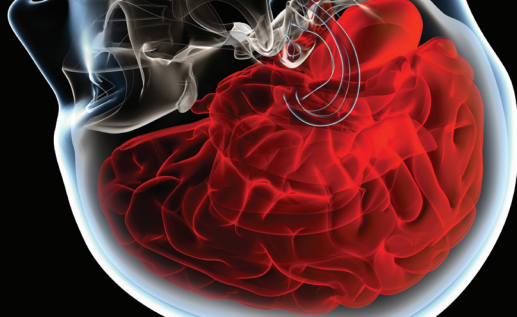




# Department of Defense ICD-9 Coding Guidance for Traumatic Brain Injury



## Initial & Subsequent TBI Encounter Coding Examples

### Initial TBI Encounter Coding Example:

A Service member (SM) is seen for the first time at a military treatment facility for complaints of memory problems several weeks after returning home from deployment. The patient reports that he was part of a convoy that was hit by an improvised explosive device (IED) blast and while he didn't sustain any physical injuries, he reports that he was unconscious for approximately three minutes. The SM reports that he has never sought treatment for his complaint of difficulty remembering things, which is now causing significant difficulty at work. The practitioner ensures documentation that this visit was an initial encounter for TBI as the patient was never seen by medical staff for the incident he described. The practitioner codes this initial encounter as:

<b>Primary diagnosis</b>	<b>850.11</b>	Concussion with LOC of 30 minutes or less
<b>Secondary diagnoses:</b>	<b>V15.52_2</b>	Injury related to global war on terrorism, mild
	<b>780.93</b>	Memory loss, NOS
	<b>V70.5_6</b>	Post-deployment encounter
	<b>V80.01</b>	Special screening for TBI

### Subsequent TBI Encounter Coding Example:

A Service member presents to her provider at a military treatment facility (MTF) after returning home from Iraq complaining of headaches that began shortly after she was exposed to an improvised explosive device (IED) blast two weeks ago. The provider reviews AHLTA notes and finds a note written immediately after the injury documenting the following: a description of the injury event, alteration of consciousness (AOC) of less than five minutes, no reported or observed loss of consciousness (LOC), no post-traumatic amnesia (PTA) and ICD-9 code 850.0. The provider determines that the present complaint of headache may be related to the previously diagnosed mild TBI.

<b>Primary diagnosis</b>	<b>784.0</b>	Headache
<b>Secondary diagnoses:</b>	<b>V15.52_2</b>	Injury related to global war on terrorism, mild
	<b>907.0</b>	Late effect of intracranial injury without skull or facial fracture
	<b>V70.5_6</b>	Post-deployment encounter



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## Coding Initial TBI Encounter

1. Primary code: brain injury, 8xx
2. Secondary diagnosis: V-code, V15.52\_x
3. Other ICD-9 codes for symptoms (i.e., Tinnitus 388.3)
4. Appropriate deployment status code, V70.5\_x
5. Special screening code for TBI, V80.01

## Coding Subsequent TBI Encounters

1. Primary diagnosis: chief complaint
2. Secondary diagnosis: V-code, V15.52\_x
3. Late effect code (905.0 or 907.0)
4. Appropriate deployment status code, V70.5\_x
5. Other ICD-9 codes as appropriate

800-804 & 850-854 Series Codes	
Series Code	Description (Note: require a fourth and fifth digit)
800	Fractures of vault of skull
801	Fractures of base of skull
802	Fractures of face bones
803	Other and unqualified skull fractures
804	Multiple fractures involving skull or face with other bones
850	Concussion
851	Cerebral laceration and contusion
852	Subarachnoid, subdural and extradural hemorrhage following injury
853	Other and unspecified intracranial hemorrhage following injury
854	Intracranial injury of other and unspecified nature

V-Code (must be used with <i>all</i> TBI encounters)	Injury Related to Global War on Terrorism	Level of Severity				
		Unknown	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Penetrating
V15.52_0	<b>Personal history of TBI NOT otherwise specified (NOS)</b>					
V15.52_1	Yes	x				
V15.52_2	Yes		x			
V15.52_3	Yes			x		
V15.52_4	Yes				x	
V15.52_5	Yes					x
V15.52_6	No	x				
V15.52_7	No		x			
V15.52_8	No			x		
V15.52_9	No				x	
V15.52_A	No					x
V15.52_B	Unknown	x				
V15.52_C	Unknown		x			
V15.52_D	Unknown			x		
V15.52_E	Unknown				x	
V15.52_F	Unknown					x

Late Effect Codes (must be used with <i>all</i> follow-up TBI encounters)	
Series Code	Description
905.0	Late effect of intracranial injury <b>with</b> skull or facial fracture
907.0	Late effect of intracranial injury <b>without</b> skull or facial fracture

Emotional/Behavioral Symptom Codes	
Series Code	Description
799.21	Nervousness
799.22	Irritability
799.23	Impulsiveness
799.24	Emotional lability
799.25	Demoralization and apathy
799.29	Other signs and symptoms involving emotional state

Common Symptoms Associated with TBI	
Series Code	Description
	<b>Hearing</b>
389.9	Hearing loss, unspecified
388.42	Hyperacusis
388.3	Tinnitus
	<b>Neurologic</b>
780.4	Dizziness, lightheadedness
784.0	Headache
780.93	Memory loss, NOS
438.85	Vertigo
	<b>Psychiatric</b>
308.9	Acute stress reaction, unspecified
300	Anxiety/irritability
311	Depression
	<b>Sleep</b>
780.5	Sleep disturbance
780.52	Insomnia
	<b>Vision</b>
368.8	Blurred vision, NOS
368.13	Photophobia
	<b>Other/General</b>
780.7	Malaise and fatigue
787.02	Nausea

Deployment Status Codes	
Series Code	Description
V70.5_5	During deployment encounter
V70.5_6	Post-deployment encounter

TBI Screening Code	
Series Code	Description
V80.01	Special screening for TBI