SUBJECT: Vaping-related disorders; use of WHO code for emergency use

*Effective from 25 September 2019*

Vaping-related disorders are disorders that result from inhaling a vapourised solution (aerosol) via an electronic delivery system. These products frequently contain flavourants, usually dissolved into propylene glycol and/or glycerine. They may also contain doses of nicotine, and other substances and additives. These disorders may also be documented as electronic cigarette related damage or disorders, or e-cigarette or vaping product use-associated lung injury (EVALI).

The exact causation of and mechanism leading to the disorders is currently unclear. The substance or substance combination leading to vaping-related disorders has not yet been identified. While lung disorders related to vaping are recognised, other organs may be affected as well. Although vaping devices may resemble cigarettes, they do not contain tobacco and it is not appropriate to assign Z72.0 Tobacco use, current.

Concern has arisen due to an increase in the incidence of vaping-related disorders internationally. As a result, the World Health Organization (WHO) has advised that effective from 25 September 2019, U07.0 Emergency use of U07.0 is assigned for vaping-related disorders, to monitor vaping-related disorders internationally.

CLASSIFICATION

Where documentation states that a condition or symptom is vaping related, assign:

- A code for the condition as per the guidelines in ACS 0001 Principal diagnosis and ACS 0002 Additional diagnoses
- U07.0 Emergency use of U07.0 as an additional diagnosis

Note: DO NOT assign U07.0 to flag that a patient uses a ‘vape device’.

Bibliography: