DoD TBI Definition

A traumatically induced structural injury or physiological disruption of brain function as a result of external force that is indicated by new onset or worsening of at least one of the following clinical signs immediately following the event:

- Any alteration in mental status (e.g., confusion, disorientation, slowed thinking, etc.)
- Any loss of memory for events immediately before or after the injury
- Any period of loss of or a decreased level of consciousness, observed or self-reported

External forces may include any of the following events: the head being struck by an object, the head striking an object, the brain undergoing an acceleration/deceleration movement without direct external trauma to the head or forces generated from events such as a blast or explosion, including penetrating injuries. (Department of Defense, 2015)

Severity of TBI

The level of injury is based on the status of the patient at the time of injury based on observable signs. Severity of injury does not predict functional or rehabilitative outcome of the patient.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mild</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Severe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Normal structural imaging</td>
<td>Normal or abnormal structural imaging</td>
<td>Normal or abnormal structural imaging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOC = 0 – 30 min</td>
<td>LOC &gt;30 min and &lt;24 hours</td>
<td>LOC &gt;24 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AOC = a moment up to 24 hours</td>
<td>AOC &gt;24 hours. Severity based on other criteria</td>
<td>PTA = 0 – 1 day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTA = 0 – 1 day</td>
<td>PTA &gt;1 and &lt;7 days</td>
<td>PTA &gt;7 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AOC – Alteration of consciousness/mental state
LOC – Loss of consciousness
PTA – Post-traumatic amnesia

Medical Provider Screening and Diagnostic Coding

![TBI Screening Diagram]

Coding Sequence:
1. Code Z13.850
2. Primary symptom code, if applicable
3. Deployment code, if applicable
4. Place of occurrence code, if applicable
5. Activity code, if applicable

Rehabilitation Provider Diagnostic Coding

Use this coding sequence for initial and subsequent visits:
1. Primary symptom code: Code for the presenting complaint (e.g., R41.844 for frontal lobe and executive function deficit)
2. TBI diagnosis code: S06. E L S E** (Use A for initial visit, D for subsequent visit, or S for sequela)
3. Deployment code, if applicable:*** (e.g., Z56.82 for deployed personnel)
4. TBI external cause of morbidity code: (e.g., V40-V49 for motor vehicle accidents, Y36 for war operations, Y37 for military operations. Use A for the initial visit. For example, Y36.290A for war operations involving other explosions and fragments, military personnel, initial encounter)
5. Place of occurrence code, if applicable
6. Activity code, if applicable
7. Personal history of TBI: (e.g., Z87.820- personal history)

*Military Acute Concussion Evaluation 2
**Etiology, Location, Severity, Encounter
***Deployment code must fall within the first four codes when applicable
### Etiology, Location, Severity, Encounter (ELSE) Coding Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category: S06.XXXX (* Please see note)</th>
<th>Etiology</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Severity</th>
<th>Encounter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 Concussion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Traumatic cerebral edema (diffuse or focal)</td>
<td>X Placeholder</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Diffuse TBI/diffuse axonal injury</td>
<td>0 Not otherwise specified (NOS)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Focal TBI</td>
<td>1 Right</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Epidural hemorrhage/extradural hemorrhage (NOS or traumatic)</td>
<td>2 Left</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Traumatic subdural hemorrhage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Traumatic subarachnoid hemorrhage</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Code for Personal History of TBI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Short Narrative</th>
<th>Long Narrative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Z87.820</td>
<td>Personal hx, TBI, unknown</td>
<td>Personal history of traumatic brain injury (TBI), highest level of severity unknown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MHS Professional Services and Specialty Medical Coding Guidelines, Version 5.0, Joint Coding Guidance Working Group, April 2015

### TBI Screening Code

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Short Narrative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Z13.850</td>
<td>Screen, TBI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Deployment Status Code

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Short Narrative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Z56.82</td>
<td>Currently deployed (TBI occurred in theater)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z91.82</td>
<td>History of deployment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Released November 2015 | Revised December 2019** by Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, DHA TBI Center of Excellence. This product is reviewed annually and is current until superseded. 800-870-9244 • dvbic.dcoe.mil 4383.1.4.20
### Commonly Used Codes for Symptoms Associated with TBI

#### Location Codes: 1 = Right  2 = Left  3 = Bilateral

#### Cognitive/Linguistic
- **R41.1** Anterograde amnesia
- **R41.0** Disorientation, unspecified
- **R41.2** Retrograde amnesia
- **R41.840** Attention and concentration deficit (excludes ADHD)
- **R41.841** Cognitive communication deficit
- **R41.842** Visuospatial deficit
- **R41.843** Psychomotor deficit
- **R41.844** Frontal lobe and executive function deficit
- **R47.01** Aphasia (excludes aphasia following CVA)

#### Hearing
- **H91.90** Unspecified hearing loss, unspecified ear (add location code as 5th character)
- **H93.19** Tinnitus, unspecified ear (add location code as 5th character)
- **H93.239** Hyperacusis, unspecified ear

#### Neurologic
- **H81.49** Vertigo of central origin, unspecified ear (add location code as 5th character)
- **H81.9** Unspecified disorder of vestibular function
- **H81.39** Other peripheral vertigo
- **H81.4** Vertigo of central origin
- **F07.81** Postconcussional syndrome
- **G43.001** Migraine without aura, not intractable with status migrainosus (G43.009) without status migrainosus
- **G43.101** Migraine with aura, not intractable with status migrainosus (G43.109) without status migrainosus
- **G43.701** Chronic migraine without aura, not intractable with status migrainosus (G43.709) without status migrainosus
- **G43.711** Chronic migraine without aura, intractable with status migrainosus (G43.719) without status migrainosus
- **G43.901** Migraine, unspecified, not intractable with status migrainosus (G43.909) without status migrainosus
- **G43.911** Migraine, unspecified, intractable with status migrainosus (G43.919) without status migrainosus
- **G44.201** Tension-type headache, unspecified, intractable (G44.209) not intractable (G44.211) episodic, intractable (G44.219) episodic, not intractable or (G44.221) chronic, intractable (G44.229), not intractable
- **G44.301** Post-traumatic headache, unspecified, intractable (G44.309) not intractable
- **G44.311** Acute post-traumatic headache, unspecified, intractable (G44.319) not intractable
- **G44.321** Chronic post-traumatic headache, unspecified, intractable
- **G44.329** Chronic post-traumatic headache, unspecified, not intractable
- **G44.84** Primary exertional headache
- **G44.89** Other headache syndrome, (102) with MCC, (103) without MCC
- **R42** Dizziness and giddiness
- **R43.0** Anosmia

### Emotional/Behavioral
- **F10.10** Alcohol abuse, uncomplicated
- **F32.9** Major depressive disorder, single episode, unspecified
- **F41.1** Generalized anxiety disorder
- **F43.10** Post-traumatic stress disorder, unspecified
- **F43.0** Acute stress reaction
- **R45.0** Nervousness
- **R45.1** Restlessness and agitation
- **R45.3** Demoralization and apathy
- **R45.4** Irritability and anger
- **R45.5** Hostility
- **R45.86** Emotional lability
- **R45.87** Impulsiveness
- **R45.89** Other signs and symptoms involving emotional state

### Sleep
- **G47.00** Insomnia, unspecified
- **G47.01** Insomnia due to a medical condition
- **G47.33** Obstructive sleep apnea, adult and pediatric
- **G47.20** Circadian rhythm sleep disorder (CRSD), unspecified type, (G47.21) CRSD delayed sleep phase type or (G47.22) advanced sleep phase type
- **G47.9** Sleep disorder, unspecified

### Vision
- **H51.11** Convergence insufficiency
- **H52.5** Accommodative dysfunction
- **H53.149** Visual discomfort, unspecified (add location code as 6th character)
- **H53.19** Photophobia* (other subjective visual disturbance)
- **H53.2** Diplopia
- **H53.30** Disorders of binocular vision
- **H53.40** Visual field defects, unspecified
- **H53.8** Other visual disturbances
- **H54** Blindness and low vision
- **H55** Nystagmus and irregular eye movements

### Other
- **R11.0** Nausea (R11.1) vomiting
- **R51** Headache
- **M79.2** Neuralgia and neuritis, unspecified
- **R53.81** Other malaise, (53.82) Chronic fatigue or (53.83) Other fatigue

### Notes
- Photophobia has no specific coding under ICD10. Photophobia can be coded using H53.19. Other subjective visual disturbances. Utilizing this coding methodology, H53.19 in the context of TBI will be interpreted as photophobia for surveillance and analysis purposes.