

# NCIS Coding Tips

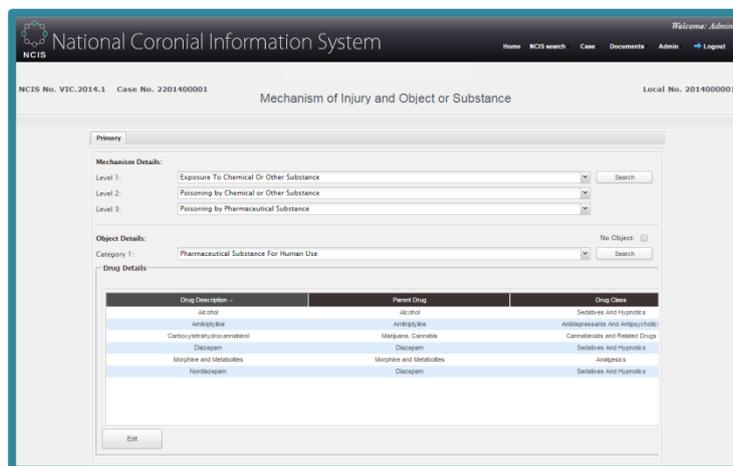


## September 2018 Codeset Enhancements

### Pharmaceutical Substance for Human Use Codeset Upgrade

On the weekend of 1 and 2 September 2018, the NCIS will be implementing an enhancement focused on simplifying the coding and searching for cases where Pharmaceutical Substances (alcohol or drugs) have contributed to death.

The enhancement will be implemented into the NCIS interface (and where applicable into the local case management system maintained by the NCIS, i.e. the MUNCCI systems). From a coding perspective this will affect the manner in which you code alcohol/drugs contributing to a death.



The areas of enhancement discussed in this document are:

- What has changed in the Mechanism of Injury – “Exposure to Chemical or Other Substance” codeset;
- What has changed in the Object or Substances Producing Injury – “Pharmaceutical Substance for Human Use” codeset; and
- How should the new codeset be applied to case coding?

Please note that this implementation and upgrade relates only to the mechanics of capturing the alcohol/drugs contribution to a death. It does not alter current NCIS coding guidance as to what and when alcohol/drugs should be coded. For further advice and assistance with coding alcohol/drugs for a particular case, refer to the NCIS Coding Tips: Coding Alcohol and Drug Related Deaths:

<http://www.ncis.org.au/training-support/guidelines-for-coders/>

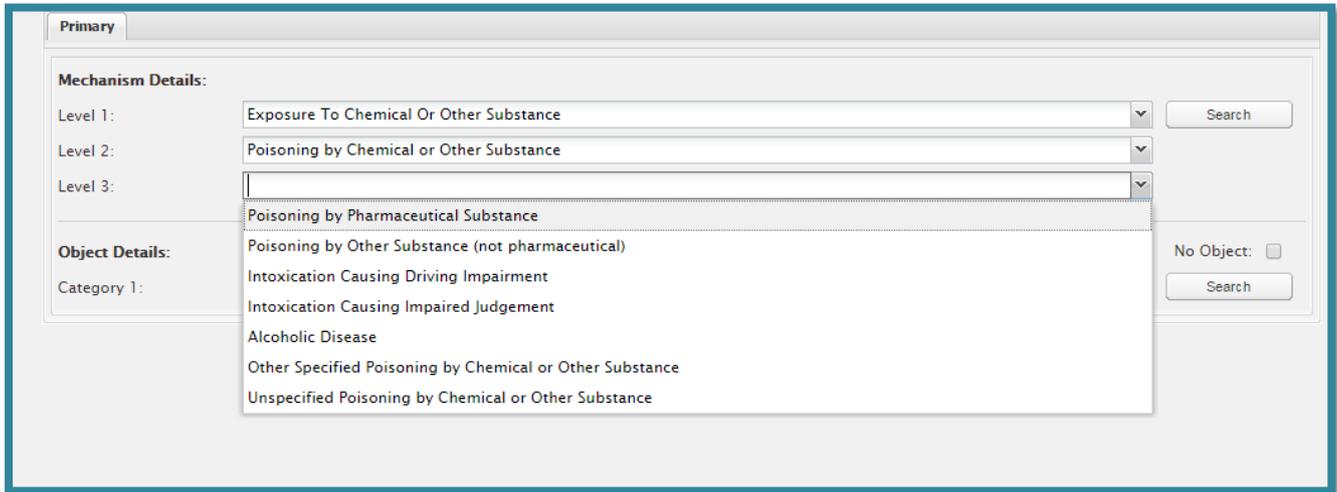
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# 1. What has changed in the Mechanism of Injury Codeset

Mechanism of Injury coding describes the way or means by which a substance contributed to the death.

We have simplified the coding of the Mechanism of Injury data field for alcohol/drug cases. **The changes relate to the codes available under the “Exposure to Chemical Substances” option.** There is no longer a need to indicate if the substance was a solid, liquid or gas; nor code differently if multiple substances were involved. The requirement now is to simply identify if the substance was a pharmaceutical substance (i.e. alcohol/drug) or any other chemical substance (i.e. petrol, motor vehicle exhaust).



## What Did We Do?

We have amalgamated and renamed some mechanism codes, and added some new mechanism codes.

Exposure to Chemical Substances		
Current Mechanism Codes	Comment	New Mechanism Codes
Poisoning by Solid Substance	Amalgamated to one code	Poisoning by Pharmaceutical Substance
Poisoning by Liquid Substance		
Poisoning by Gaseous Substance		
Poisoning by Multiple Substances		
	New Code	Poisoning by Other Substance (not Pharmaceutical)
Intoxication Causing Driving Impairment	Unchanged	Intoxication Causing Driving Impairment
Intoxication Causing Impaired Judgement	Unchanged	Intoxication Causing Impaired Judgement
Alcoholic Disease	Unchanged	Alcoholic Disease
Other Specified Poisoning by Chemical or Other Substance	Unchanged	Other Specified Poisoning by Chemical or Other Substance
Unspecified Poisoning by Chemical or Other Substance	Unchanged	Unspecified Poisoning by Chemical or Other Substance
Corrosion by Solid Substance	Amalgamated to one code	Corrosion by Substance
Corrosion by Liquid Substance		
Corrosion by Gaseous Substance		
Other Specified Corrosion by Substance	Unchanged	Other Specified Corrosion by Substance
Unspecified Corrosion by Substance	Unchanged	Unspecified Corrosion by Substance

## What Does It Look Like Now?

### Poisoning by Chemical or Other Substance

- Poisoning by Pharmaceutical Substance
- Poisoning by Other Substance (Not Pharmaceutical)
- Intoxication Causing Driving Impairment
- Intoxication Causing Impaired Judgement
- Alcoholic Disease
- Other Specified Poisoning by Chemical or Other Substance
- Unspecified Poisoning by Chemical or Other Substance

### Corrosion by Chemical or Other Substance

- Corrosion by Substance
- Other Specified Corrosion by Substance
- Unspecified Corrosion by Substance

## How Has The Coding Process Changed?

- ❖ If the substance(s) detected is a Pharmaceutical Substance (i.e. diazepam) – Code as “Poisoning by Pharmaceutical Substance”.
- ❖ If the substance(s) detected is not a Pharmaceutical Substance (i.e. nail polish remover) – Code as “Poisoning by Other Substance (Not Pharmaceutical)”.

## How To Apply The New “Exposure to Chemical Substances” Codeset

Poisoning by Pharmaceutical Substance [Renamed Code]	Poisoning or toxicity by a substance which is listed within the ‘Pharmaceutical Substance for Human Use’ codeset. Alcohol/Drug level is above the norm <sup>^</sup> and the presence of the alcohol/drugs has caused or contributed to the death. Does not matter if this is a single substance or a combination of multiple substances.
Poisoning by Other Substance (Not Pharmaceutical) [New Code]	Poisoning or toxicity by a substance which is <b>not listed</b> within the ‘Pharmaceutical Substance for Human Use’ codeset. Includes: poisoning by motor vehicle exhaust, ingestion of toxic substance (i.e. petrol, weed killer, cyanide, strychnine, toluene.)
Intoxication Causing Driving Impairment	Incidents of non-poisoning when a Transport Vehicle is In Use Alcohol/drug considered to be a factor in the driving ability of the deceased or others involved—i.e. recreational drugs detected or alcohol under the legal limit* (note: if over limit, ‘Poisoning’)
Intoxication Causing Impaired Judgement	Incidents of non-poisoning where a Transport Vehicle is NOT In Use (e.g. drowning, fall from height, assault) Alcohol/Drug considered to have impacted on deceased’s ability to make a rational decision at the time of the incident - i.e. recreational drugs detected or alcohol under the legal limit*
Alcoholic Disease	Prolonged and/or excessive use of alcohol contributed to disease/condition which caused death. This code is commonly associated with natural cause deaths (i.e. alcoholic cirrhosis)
Other Specified Poisoning by Chemical or Other Substance	Appropriate code does not exist in codeset. Using this code generates a free text field for entry of suitable text.
Unspecified Poisoning by Chemical or Other Substance	Contribution of alcohol/drug is unconfirmed or unknown but contribution is suspected

<sup>^</sup> For an indication as to when a detected substance should be coded, see the NCIS Coding Tips: Coding Alcohol and Drug Related Deaths

\* The legal limit will be influenced by type of licence held (full or probationary), context of the injury event (i.e. driving for work purposes) and National/State/Territory laws. A broad indication for most circumstances is under 0.05.

## 2. What has changed in the Object or Substance Producing Injury Codeset

Object or Substance Producing Injury coding describes the substance which contributed to death.

We have made enhancements aimed at simplifying the coding of substances in the Object data field under the Pharmaceutical Substance for Human Use codeset.

Object Details: No Object:   
Category 1:  Search

Drug Details Help

Drug Description	Parent Drug	Drug Class	Drug Category
Alcohol	Alcohol	Sedatives And Hypnotics	Alcohols
Diazepam	Diazepam	Sedatives And Hypnotics	Benzodiazepines
Marijuana, Cannabis	Marijuana, Cannabis	Cannabinoids and Related Drugs	Cannabinoids and Related Drugs
Nordiazepam	Diazepam	Sedatives And Hypnotics	Benzodiazepines
Oxazepam	Oxazepam	Sedatives And Hypnotics	Benzodiazepines
Oxycodone	Oxycodone	Analgesics	Semisynthetic Opioid Analgesics
Temazepam	Temazepam	Sedatives And Hypnotics	Benzodiazepines

### What Did We Do?

- Implemented a single list of drugs for coding purposes, removed drug categories from the coding list.
- Added more drug types and commonly identified metabolites to the codeset.
- Minimised 'Other Specified' free text data fields.
- Extended the codeset so substances are now linked to the parent drug, drug category and drug class.
- Limited the maximum number of substances which can be coded to 20.

### What Does It Look Like Now?

A new Drug Code Set Edit screen is displayed once "Pharmaceutical Substance for Human Use" is selected in the Object or Substance data field and the 'Edit' option is selected (see below screenshot).

The codeset displayed on the coding screen is now comprised of a single list of drug and metabolite names that is displayed in the "Available NCIS Pharmaceutical Substances" box on the new Drug Code Set Edit screen. Some of the more commonly used substances are detailed at the top of the list, with all other substances then listed alphabetically. This list can be filtered and searched across, with a simple Select and Add process to be repeated until all substances have been added to the 'Select NCIS Pharmaceutical Substances' box. See section 4 for an example.

The full list of codes that now appear under the "Pharmaceutical Substances for Human Use" is provided with this Coding Tips, and will be available to access from the NCIS public website.

Drug Code Set Edit

Available NCIS Pharmaceutical Substances

- Dextromethorphan
- Dextropropoxyphene
- Diamox
- Diazepam
- Diclofenac
- Diet Aid
- Digoxin

Selected NCIS Pharmaceutical Substances

Search by name:

Search by class:

Search by category:

## How Has The Coding Process Changed?

For the majority of cases, you now only need to select the appropriate alcohol/drug(s) from a list of pharmaceutical substances. This means that you no longer need to know which drug class or category the substance belongs to, or in the case of metabolites, what the parent drug is.

You will no longer be able to search for alcohol/drugs using the **Object Search** function. You must first open the drug coding screen by selecting “Pharmaceutical Substance for Human Use” in level 1 of the Object data field – then select **EDIT**, and use the search functions available on the drug screen.

## How Do I Use The New Codeset?

Follow the below steps to enter a pharmaceutical substance into the Object data field.

1. Select “Pharmaceutical Substance for Human Use” in the Object or Substances Producing Injury data field. A new “Drug Details” screen will appear, replacing Category 2 on the Object Details section. This screen will include an **EDIT** button.
2. Select the **EDIT** button to open the pop-up “Drug Code Set Edit” screen.
3. Search for substance in the “Available NCIS Pharmaceutical Substances” list on the left of the screen using the “Search by Name” field or by scrolling through the list. (Refine by using the “Search by Category” or “Search by Class” to shorten the list of possible substances).
4. Select the substance and click **ADD** to move the substance to the “Selected NCIS Pharmaceutical Substances” box on the right of the screen (moved substances will no longer be included in the available substance list).
5. Repeat as needed for all required substances.
6. Once you have added all applicable substances to the ‘Selected NCIS Pharmaceutical Substances’ box, select **OK**. The Drug Code Set Edit pop-up box will now close and the new Drug Details display box will appear. This will include all your selected substances along with their parent drug, drug class and drug category.
7. Complete any remaining coding, Save the Mechanism/Object screen as usual.

## What If The Substance Is Not Included In The List?

If you know the specific substance name (i.e. not a generic term such as ‘a benzodiazepine’), then use:

- “Other Specified Pharmaceutical Substances For Human Use” and enter drug description(s) into the free text field.

If you don’t know the specific substance name but do know a generic term, the drug class or drug category for the substance (i.e. ‘a Benzodiazepine’, ‘a sedative’), then use the:

- most appropriate generic code (i.e. ‘Benzodiazepines, nec’, ‘Other Sedatives and Hypnotics’).

If you don’t know the specific substance, the drug class or drug category (i.e. ‘Multiple drugs’), then use:

- ‘Unspecified Drug(s)’

### 3. Example of applying the new codeset

#### Coding Example – Cause of Death: Combined Drug Toxicity

Toxicology identified: 9Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), Alcohol, Clonazepam, Codeine (free), Codeine (Total), Diazepam, Oxycodone

#### Mechanism of Injury and Object or Substance

##### 1. Code Mechanism of Injury as: Poisoning by Pharmaceutical Substance

Mechanism Details:

Level 1: Exposure To Chemical Or Other Substance

Level 2: Poisoning by Chemical or Other Substance

Level 3: Poisoning by Pharmaceutical Substance

Object Details:

Category 1: Pharmaceutical Substance For Human Use

No Object:

Search

Drug Details

Help

##### 2. Code Object/Substance as per normal process: Pharmaceutical Substances for Human Use New section of screen will appear, displaying any previously coded Pharmaceutical Substances for this case.

Drug Description	Parent Drug	Drug Class	Drug Category
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##### 3. Select the **EDIT** button to open the Drug Code Set Edit pop-up screen

Save Delete

#### Mechanism of Injury and Object or Substance

Drug Code Set Edit

Available NCIS Pharmaceutical Substances

- Dextromethorphan
- Dextropropoxyphene
- Diamox
- Diazepam
- Diclofenac
- Diet Aid
- Digoxin

Selected NCIS Pharmaceutical Substances

Add ->

<- Remove

Search by name:

Search by class:

Search by category:

Clear filters OK Reset cancel

- ##### 4. Find the relevant alcohol/drugs from the “Available NCIS Pharmaceutical Substances” list using:
- Drop down list (commonly detected substances are located at top, then alphabetically listed)
  - Name Search – use name of drug as known (i.e. as listed on toxicology report)
  - Category Search – select a specific the drug category (i.e. benzodiazepines) to limit the listing to only those types of drugs.
  - Class Search – select a specific drug class (i.e. Sedatives And Hypnotics) to limit the listing to only those types of drugs.

Primary

### Drug Code Set Edit

**Available NCIS Pharmaceutical Substances**

Temazepam
Thiopentone
Triazolam
Valium
Vecuronium
Zolpidem
Zopiclone

Search by name:

Search by class:

Search by category:

**Selected NCIS Pharmaceutical Substances**

UserID: Admin Timeout in: 44 mins

Primary

### Drug Code Set Edit

**Available NCIS Pharmaceutical Substances**

Butobarbitone
Clobazam
Clonazepam
Desmethyldiazepam
Diazepam
Ethanol
Etizolam

Search by name:

Search by class:

Search by category:

**Selected NCIS Pharmaceutical Substances**

5. Select the relevant substance from the list and press **ADD** to move the code to the “Selected NCIS Pharmaceutical Substances” box.

- Use [CTRL] to select multiple individual substances
- Use [SHIFT] to select multiple substances within a range (first and last selected and all substances in between).

Primary

### Drug Code Set Edit

**Available NCIS Pharmaceutical Substances**

- Codeine
- Codeine Glucuronide
- Codeine-6-Glucuronide
- Dihydrocodeine
- Hydrocodone
- Noroxycodone
- Panadeine Forte (Codeine)
- Phenacetin

Search by name:

Search by class:

Search by category:

Add ->

<- Remove

**Selected NCIS Pharmaceutical Substances**

- Diazepam
- Clonazepam
- Alcohol
- 9Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)
- Codeine (Free)
- Codeine (Total)
- Oxycodone

Clear filters

OK

Reset

cancel

6. Continue adding substances until all are selected.

7. Use the **OK** button to finalise the selection.

Primary

**Mechanism Details:**

Level 1:  Search

Level 2:  Search

Level 3:  Search

**Object Details:**

Category 1:  Search

No Object:

**Drug Details** Help

Drug Description	Parent Drug	Drug Class	Drug Category
9Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)	Marijuana, Cannabis	Cannabinoids and Related Drugs	Cannabinoids and Related Drugs
Alcohol	Alcohol	Sedatives And Hypnotics	Alcohol
Clonazepam	Clonazepam	Sedatives And Hypnotics	Benzodiazepines
Codeine (Free)	Codeine	Analgesics	Organic Opioid Analgesics
Codeine (Total)	Codeine	Analgesics	Organic Opioid Analgesics
Diazepam	Diazepam	Sedatives And Hypnotics	Benzodiazepines
Oxycodone	Oxycodone	Analgesics	Semisynthetic Opioid Analgesics

Edit

8. Use the **EDIT** button to add/delete/amend the selections, if needed.

9. Use **SAVE** to save the coding.

## NCIS Coder Reference Material

All NCIS coding reference materials (NCIS Data Dictionary, NCIS Coder Manual and User Guide, e-Learning modules and Coding Tips) have been updated to reflect the new enhancements, and where applicable coding advice.

Due to the length and changing nature of the new drug listing, the codeset under Pharmaceutical Substance for Human Use will no longer be reproduced in the Data Dictionary (Object or Substance Producing Injury: Page 150-169 and Appendix 8: Object or Substance Producing Injury (Detailed)), and will instead be available as a file online.

This will allow for easier updates to the drug listing in future. The new Pharmaceutical Codeset (as of 1 September 2018) was included with this Coding Tips. If you did not receive a copy or require further copies please contact the NCIS on (03) 9684 4458 or [ncis@ncis.org.au](mailto:ncis@ncis.org.au)

The most recent, and operational, version of the 'Pharmaceutical Substance For Human Use' codeset will be available on the NCIS website: <http://www.ncis.org.au/training-support/guidelines-for-coders/>.

## Feedback

Any feedback or queries regarding the NCIS codeset can be directed to me via email at [Leanne.daking@ncis.org.au](mailto:Leanne.daking@ncis.org.au) or by telephone on (03) 9684 4458.

Thank You

*Leanne*