

# Headache Diagnosis & Procedure Coding (ICD-10)

The medical classification list for headache seen in the *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision* is used by healthcare providers to code the most specific headache diagnosis for patients. Patients may have more than one headache disorder (e.g., migraine headache and medication overuse headache).

For more information about headache criteria, please see <https://ichd-3.org>.

This is not an all inclusive list.

**Intractable** refers to headaches documented by the provider to be treatment resistant, treatment refractory, medically refractory, pharmacoresistant, and/or poorly controlled.

**Status migrainosus** refers to migraine headaches lasting more than 72 hours.

## Headache Diagnosis Coding

### Common Primary Headache Disorders

Tension-Type Headache		G44.2XX
Tension-type headache, unspecified	not intractable G44.209	intractable G44.201
Episodic tension-type headache	not intractable G44.219	intractable G44.211
Chronic tension-type headache	not intractable G44.229	intractable G44.221

Migraine without Aura		G43.0XX
Migraine without aura, without status migrainosus	not intractable G43.009	intractable G43.019
Migraine without aura, with status migrainosus	not intractable G43.001	intractable G43.011
Migraine, unspecified, without status migrainosus	not intractable G43.909	intractable G43.919
Migraine, unspecified, with status migrainosus	not intractable G43.901	intractable G43.911

Migraine with Aura		G43.1XX
Migraine with aura, without status migrainosus	not intractable G43.109	intractable G44.119
Migraine with aura, with status migrainosus	not intractable G43.101	intractable G43.111

Chronic Migraine without Aura		G43.7XX
Chronic migraine without aura, without status migrainosus	not intractable G43.709	intractable G43.719
Chronic migraine without aura, with status migrainosus	not intractable G43.701	intractable G43.711
Note: There are no ICD codes for chronic migraine headache with aura		

Menstrual Migraine		G43.8XX
Menstrual migraine, without status migrainosus	not intractable G43.829	intractable G43.839
Menstrual migraine, with status migrainosus	not intractable G43.821	intractable G43.831

### Less Common Primary Headache Disorders

Trigeminal Autonomic Cephalalgias (TAC)		G44.0XX
Cluster headache syndrome, unspecified	not intractable G44.009	intractable G44.001
Episodic cluster headache	not intractable G44.019	intractable G44.011
Chronic cluster headache	not intractable G44.029	intractable G44.021
Episodic paroxysmal hemicrania	not intractable G44.039	intractable G44.031
Chronic paroxysmal hemicrania	not intractable G44.049	intractable G44.041
Short lasting unilateral neuralgiform headache with conjunctival injection and tearing (SUNCT)	not intractable G44.059	intractable G44.051
Other trigeminal autonomic cephalalgias (TAC)	not intractable G44.099	intractable G44.091
Hemicrania continua		G44.51

Other Primary Headache Disorders		G44
Other migraine, without status migrainosus	not intractable G43.809	intractable G43.819
Other migraine, with status migrainosus	not intractable G43.801	intractable G43.811
Ophthalmoplegic migraine	not intractable G43.80	intractable G43.81
New daily persistent headache (NDPH)		G44.52
Primary thunderclap headache		G44.53
Other complicated headache syndrome		G44.59
Hypnic headache		G44.81
Headache associated with sexual activity		G44.82
Primary cough headache		G44.83
Primary exercise headache		G44.84
Primary stabbing headache		G44.85
Other headache syndromes		G44.89

# Headache Diagnosis Coding

## Common Secondary Headache Disorders

Post-Traumatic Headache		G44.3XX
Post-traumatic headache, unspecified	not intractable G44.309	intractable G44.301
Acute post-traumatic headache	not intractable G44.319	intractable G44.311
Chronic post-traumatic headache	not intractable G44.329	intractable G44.321
Persistent headache attributed to mild traumatic injury to the head		G44.3
Persistent headache attributed to moderate or severe traumatic injury to the head		G44.30

Post-Whiplash Headache	
Sprain of ligaments of cervical spine	G44.841
Sprain of ligaments of cervical spine	S13.4XXA
Sprain of joints and ligaments of other parts of neck, initial encounter	S13.8XXA

Cervicogenic Headache		G44.86
Cervicogenic Headache		G44.86

Drug Induced Headache		G44.4XX
Medication-overuse headache	not intractable G44.40	intractable G44.41

## Headache Procedure Coding

Procedure	CPT-Code	Additional Information and Other Considerations
Greater Occipital Nerve	64405	Injection(s), anesthetic agent(s) and/or steroid; greater occipital nerve
Supraorbital Nerve Block	64400	Injection of Anesthetic Agent (Nerve Block), Diagnostic Therapeutic Procedures on the Somatic Nerves – Supraorbital Nerve Block
Trigger Point Injection(s)	20552	Single or multiple trigger point(s), for one or two muscle groups injected
	20553	Single or multiple trigger point(s), for three or more muscle groups injected
Botulinum Toxin Injections	64615	Chemodenervation of muscle(s); muscle(s) innervated by facial, trigeminal, cervical spinal, and accessory nerves (e.g., for chronic migraine)
		HCPCS: J0585 - onabotulinumtoxinA
		HCPCS: J0586 - abobotulinumtoxinA
		HCPCS: J0587 - rimabotulinumtoxinB
		HCPCS: J0588 - incobotulinumA

Abbreviations:

CPT: Common Procedural Terminology

HCPCS: Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System



For more information on the 2023 VA/DoD Clinical Practice Guideline for Primary Care Management of Headache, visit

<https://www.healthquality.va.gov/guidelines/pain/headache>

or

<https://www.health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Access-Cost-Quality-and-Safety/VADOD-CPGs>