

Condition Onset Flag (COF) for Z53 *Persons encountering health services for specific procedures, not carried out*

October 2025

Diagnosis codes in the range Z53.- *Persons encountering health services for specific procedures, not carried out*, incorporate several reasons for why a patient may not have a planned procedure.

The reasons may include:

- administrative reasons – for example, the theatre has been over booked.
- the patient has a contra-indication that could complicate the procedure or needs urgent treatment itself – for example, the patient has a high temperature and productive cough
- the patient decides not to go ahead with the procedure.

What is the correct Condition Onset Flag (COF) that should be assigned in these situations?

As per the [Queensland Hospital Admitted Patient Data Collection \(QHAPDC\) Manual](#), the condition onset flag can be either:

1 – Condition **present** on admission to the episode of care

2 – Condition **arose** during the episode of care.

Typically, the COF assigned for a Z53 *Persons encountering health services for specific procedures, not carried out* is 2 – Condition arose during the episode of care.

This is reflected in the statewide profile of COF assignment for Z53 codes for 2024/2025 as per below:

ICD-10-AM Code and Description		COF=1	COF=2
Z53.0	Procedure not carried out because of contraindication	20	7021
Z53.1	Procedure not carried out because of patient's decision for reasons of belief or group pressure	0	30
Z53.2	Procedure not carried out because of patient's decision for other and unspecified reasons	7	1589
Z53.3	Procedure abandoned after initiation	3	3947
Z53.8	Procedure not carried out for other reasons	20	9451
Z53.9	Procedure not carried out, unspecified reason	4	1094

Source: QHAPDC. Figures as of September 2025. Note: Thirteenth Edition ICD-10-AM codes Z53.30, Z53.31, Z53.32 not available in 2024-2025 data as implemented from 1 July 2025.

Example 1

A patient is admitted for day surgery. The patient completes their pre-operative check with nursing staff, is seen by the anaesthetist, but prior to going to theatre, the patient is notified that their procedure is cancelled as the surgeon has been urgently called away and is not available.

The COF assigned to diagnosis code Z53.8 *Procedure not carried out for other reasons* is 2 – Condition arose during the episode of patient care.

Example 2

An obstetric patient experiences a second degree tear during an in-hospital delivery. The patient is advised by her doctor that the tear needs to be sutured, but the patient refuses.

The COF assigned to diagnosis code Z53.2 *Procedure not carried out because of patient's decision for other and unspecified reasons* is 2 – Condition arose during the episode of patient care.

Example 3

A patient is admitted for orthopaedic surgery. On assessment by the anaesthetist, it is identified that the patient has pneumonia. The orthopaedic procedure is cancelled, and the patient continues their episode of care and is treated for pneumonia.

The COF assigned to diagnosis code Z53.0 *Procedure not carried out because of contraindication* is 2 – Condition arose during the episode of patient care.

Note: Even though the contraindication (pneumonia) was present on admission, the decision not to perform the procedure was made after admission, so therefore the COF assigned is 2 – Condition arose during the episode of patient care.

Example 4

A patient is booked for theatre at a regional hospital. Prior to the patient's arrival at the hospital the surgeon decides to still do the operation but at the tertiary hospital. The patient arrives for theatre at the regional hospital and is admitted and transferred to the tertiary hospital for surgery.

The COF assigned to diagnosis code Z53.8 *Procedure not carried out for other reasons* is 1 – Condition present on admission to the episode of care. This is because it was determined that the procedure would occur at another facility prior to admission.

Electronic Validation Application (EVA Plus) Validations

The following EVA validation applies to all Z53 codes:

ICD H847

Category: FATAL

Message Description Code: || cannot have a Condition onset flag of 9. Condition onset unknown/uncertain on admission to the episode of care. Please review and amend.

Resolution: Check the morbidity details and amend as appropriate. From 1 July 2020, COF value 9 Condition onset unknown/uncertain on admission to the episode of care is no longer a valid value.

This validation indicates that all Z53 codes must have a COF of either:

- 1 – Condition **present** on admission to the episode of care
- 2 – Condition **arose** during the episode of care.

And a value of 9 is not valid.

Episodes with Cancelled Procedures

The following episodes should be reported despite the procedure subsequently being cancelled/unable to be performed:

- The procedure is minimally invasive in nature but has commenced e.g. for dialysis, infusion, transfusion
- Anaesthesia has already been administered
- The patient is already in the operating theatre or procedure room (endoscopy procedure room, cardiac catheterisation lab)
- The patient has received a pre-medication.

All admitted episodes with cancelled procedures should contain a code in the range Z53.- *Persons encountering health services for specific procedures, not carried out*.

For queries relating to cancellation of admissions, please refer the [QHAPDC Manual Appendix F](#) Queensland Hospital Admission Guidelines.

Delay in procedures during the same episode

As per ACS 0011 *Intervention cancelled or not performed*, if a patient was admitted to a facility for an intervention that was delayed, but was later undertaken during the same episode of care, do not assign a code from category Z53 *Persons encountering health services for specific procedures, not carried out*.

Related Australian Coding Standards (ACS)

- ACS 0048 *Condition onset flag*
- ACS 0011 *Intervention cancelled or not performed*
- ACS 0019 *Intervention abandoned, interrupted or not completed*
- ACS 1551 *Obstetric perineal grazes and perineal lacerations*

Document History

Version	Date	Status	Key changes made	Author/s
1.0	February 2019	Approved	Version 1.0 published	Data Quality Team
2.0	November 2023	Approved	Content amendment, reordering of content, formatting	Data Quality Team
3.0	October 2025	Approved	ICD-10-AM and Australian Coding Standard (ACS) Thirteenth Edition updates, data updates	Data Quality Team