COMPLIANCE CUE

MDS 3.0 - Section N0415 (High Risk Drug Classes)
Updated October 2025

10 Tips for Successful Section N0415 Coding

1. If unsure of a medication's classification, check the manufacturer's package insert.
   a. Drug classes are often listed under the *Indications & Usage* summary on the first page, or under the *Mechanism of Action* section of the clinical pharmacology chapter.
2. Medications belonging to more than one drug class should be coded in ***all*** applicable categories, regardless of therapeutic use.
   a. This includes combination medications belonging to one or more drug classes.
3. Code ***all*** medications administered, regardless of setting (e.g., at the nursing home, in the hospital emergency room) or frequency (e.g., once, daily, monthly), while the individual is still a resident of the nursing home.
4. **DO NOT** code antiplatelet medications (e.g., aspirin, dipyridamole, clopidogrel) as N0415E, anticoagulant.
5. **DO NOT** code flushes to keep an IV access open as N0415E, anticoagulant.
6. **DO NOT** code over the counter medications (e.g., melatonin) as N0415D, hypnotic.
7. **DO NOT** code herbal and alternative medicine products as these are considered *dietary supplements* per the FDA.
8. If a high-risk medication was administered transdermally as a patch, code only if the patch was applied during the observation period.
9. Ensure each high-risk medication has an indication for use.
10. Code long-acting medications (e.g., haloperidol decanoate administered every 4 weeks) only if it was administered during the observation period.

High-Risk Drugs

The abridged table on the following pages summarizes medications classifed as high-risk drugs per the categories defined by MDS Section N. They are arranged alphabetically, by generic name. These lists are not intended to be exhaustive or all-inclusive, but rather, serve as a quick-reference guide for staff education.

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This Compliance Cue expands on our 2024 publication that outlined important revisions to Section N. Click on the link to read more!

Antipsychotic	Antianxiety	Antidepressant	Hypnotic	Anticoagulant
Aripiprazole	Alprazolam	Amitriptyline	Daridorexant	Apixaban
Asenapine	Buspirone	Amoxapine	Doxepin	Argatroban
Brexpiprazole	Chlordiazepoxide	Brexanolone	Estazolam	Bivalirudin
Cariprazine	Clonazepam	Bupropion	Eszopiclone	Dabigatran
Chlorpromazine	Clorazepate	Citalopram	Flurazepam	Dalteparin
Clozapine	Diazepam	Clomipramine	Lemborexant	Edoxaban
Droperidol	Hydroxyzine	Desipramine	Phenobarbital	Enoxaparin
Fluphenazine	Lorazepam	Desvenlafaxine	Quazepam	Fondaparinux
Haloperidol	Meprobamate	Dextromethorphan & Bupropion	Ramelteon	Heparin
Iloperidone	Midazolam	Doxepin	Suvorexant	Rivaroxaban
Loxapine	Oxazepam	Duloxetine	Tasimelteon	Sodium Citrate (IV)
Lumateperone	Prazosin	Escitalopram	Temazepam	Warfarin
Lurasidone	Pregabalin	Esketamine	Trazodone	
Molindone		Fluoxetine	Triazolam	
Olanzapine		Fluvoxamine	Zaleplon	
Olanzapine & Fluoxetine		Imipramine	Zolpidem	
Olanzapine & Samidorphan		Isocarboxazid	Zopiclone	
Paliperidone		Levomilnacipran	Flurazepam	
Perphenazine		Mirtazapine		
Pimavanserin		Nefazodone		
Pimozide		Nortriptyline		
Prochlorperazine		Paroxetine		
Quetiapine		Phenelzine		
Risperidone		Protriptyline		
Thioridazine		Selegiline		
Thiothixene		Sertraline		
Trifluoperazine		Tranylcypromine		
Ziprasidone		Trazodone		
		Trimipramine		
		Venlafaxine		
		Vilazodone		
		Vortioxetine		

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Antibiotic		
Amikacin	Clarithromycin	Mupirocin
Amoxicillin	Clindamycin	Nafcillin
Ampicillin	Dalbavancin	Neomycin
Aztreonam	Dapsone	Nitrofurantoin
Besifloxacin	Daptomycin	Ofloxacin
Bacitracin	Delafloxacin	Omadacycline
Azithromycin	Dicloxacillin	Oxacillin
Cefaclor	Doxycycline	Penicillin
Cefadroxil	Ertapenem	Piperacillin
Cefazolin	Eravacycline	Plazomicin
Cefdinir	Erythromycin	Polymixin B
Cefixime	Fidaxomicin	Rifamycin
Cefepime	Fosfomycin	Rifaximin
Cefiderocol	Gatifloxacin	Sarecycline
Cefotaxime	Gepotidacin	Streptomycin
Cefotetan	Gentamicin	Sulbactam & Durlobactam
Cefoxitin	Imipenem	Sulfacetamide
Cefpodoxime	Levofloxacin	Sulfadiazine
Cefprozil	Lincomycin	Sulfamethozole & Trimethoprim
Ceftaroline	Linezolid	Sulopenem Etzadroxil & Probenecid
Ceftazidime	Mafenide	Tetracycline
Ceftriaxone	Meropenem	Tedizolid
Cefuroxime	Methenamine	Tigecycline
Cephalexin	Metronidazole	Tobramycin
Ciprofloxacin	Minocycline	Trimethoprim
Colistimethate	Moxifloxacin	Vancomycin

NEXT PAGE ▶▶

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Diuretic	Opioid	Antiplatelet	Hypoglycemic	Anticonvulsants
Acetazolamide	Buprenorphine	Anagrelide	Acarbose	Brivaracetam
Amiloride	Butorphanol	Aspirin	Alogliptin	Cannabidiol (Epidiolex)
Bumetanide	Codeine	Cangrelor	Bexagliflozin	Carbamazepine
Chlorothiazide	Fentanyl	Cilostazol	Canagliflozin	Cenobamate
Chlorthalidone	Hydrocodone	Clopidogrel	Dapagliflozin	Clobazam
Eplerenone	Hydromorphone	Dipyridamole	Dulaglutide	Clonazepam
Ethacrynic Acid	Levorphanol	Eptifibatide	Empagliflozin	Clorazepate
Furosemide	Meperidine	Prasugrel	Ertugliflozin	Divalproex Sodium
Hydrochlorothiazide	Methadone	Ticagrelor	Exenatide	Eslicarbazepine Acetate
Indapamide	Morphine	Tirofiban	Glimepiride	Felbamate
Mannitol (IV)	Nalbuphine	Vorapaxar	Glipizide	Fenfluramine
Methazolamide	Oxycodone		Glyburide	Fosphenytoin
Metolazone	Oxymorphone		Insulins (Aspart, Degludec, Glargine, Glulisine, Lispro, NPH, Regular)	Gabapentin
Pamabrom	Pentazocine		Linagliptin	Lacosamide
Spironolactone	Sufentanil		Liraglutide	Lamotrigine
Torsemide	Remifentanil		Lixisenatide	Levetiracetam
Triamterene	Tapentadol		Metformin	Methsuximide
	Tramadol		Miglitol	Midazolam
			Nateglinide	Oxcarbazepine
			Pioglitazone	Perampanel
			Repaglinide	Phenobarbital
			Saxagliptin	Phenytoin
			Semaglutide	Pregabalin
			Sitagliptin	Primidone
			Sotagliflozin	Rufinamide
			Tirzepatide	Tiagabine
				Topiramate
				Valproic Acid
				Zonisamide

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