

## CLINICAL DOCUMENTATION

# Macular Degeneration

Macular degeneration (AMD or ARMD) is an eye disease that affects central vision. Nonexudative, or dry AMD, causes the loss of central vision over years and is painless, and most patients retain enough vision to read and drive. Central blind spots usually occur late in the disease and can sometimes become severe. Exudative, or wet AMD, causes rapid vision loss, usually over days to weeks, and the first symptom is typically visual distortion, such as a central blind spot or curving of straight lines and this occurs when new abnormal blood vessels develop under the retina in a process called choroidal neovascularization.

## ICD-10 CODES

Final digit of the codes below represents the stage of the disease:

0: stage unspecified  
 1: early dry stage  
 2: intermediate dry stage  
 3: advanced dry stage; atrophic without subfoveal involvement  
 4: advanced dry stage; atrophic with subfoveal involvement

### Nonexudative:

- H35.311-** Nonexudative age-related macular degeneration, right eye
- H35.311-** Nonexudative age-related macular degeneration, left eye
- H35.313-** Nonexudative age-related macular degeneration, bilateral
- H35.319-** Nonexudative age-related macular degeneration, unspecified eye

Final digit of the codes below represents the stage of the disease:

0: stage unspecified  
 1: with active choroidal neovascularization  
 2: with inactive choroidal neovascularization; with involuted or regressed neovascularization  
 3: with inactive scar

### Exudative:

- H35.32-** Exudative age-related macular degeneration; wet age-related macular degeneration
- H35.321-** Exudative age-related macular degeneration, right eye
- H35.322-** Exudative age-related macular degeneration, left eye
- H35.323-** Exudative age-related macular degeneration, bilateral
- H35.329-** Exudative age-related macular degeneration, unspecified eye

### Unspecified:

- H35.30** Age-related (unspecified) macular degeneration

## DOCUMENTATION ACRONYMS

### DEEP Diagnosis Elements

Include elements of DEEP in documentation to clinically support macular degeneration.

**Diagnosis:** Macular degeneration

**Evidence:** OCT shows active retinal vascularization  
 RT > LT

**Evaluation:** Wet AMD with choroidal neovascularization, OU

**Plan:** Begin AREDS, consult with ophthalmology to begin Avastin treatments on RT

### Final Assessment Details

Include DSP for each addressed condition impacting treatment and patient care.

#### Diagnosis

##### Macular Degeneration Diagnosis

- Type
- Laterality

#### Status

##### Dry AMD

- Stage

##### Wet AMD

- Stage

#### Plan

- Lifestyle modifications
- Vitamin therapy
- Diet
- Photodynamic therapy
- Intravitreal injections

### BEST PRACTICES & TIPS

- **Without additional specificity** the documentation of AMD or ARMD alone will only mean unspecified macular degeneration.
- Macular degeneration requires documentation of **the type, exudative or nonexudative, and the stage** to ensure the true severity of the disease is represented.
- If wet AMD documentation indicates **status post treatment** it can only be assumed to be stage unspecified.
- **Avoid** using terms such as “probable”, “suspected”, “likely”, “questionable”, “possible”, with a confirmed and active, diagnosis of macular degeneration.
- Documentation should always include **evidence** of ARMD. Incorporate examination results, signs, symptoms, as well as any lifestyle modifications used to compensate for vision loss.
- The use of “history of” denotes a **resolved status** and any condition cannot be assumed as active even in the presence of current treatment.
- Distinctly **document the treatment** to the condition and the progression of the disease for each patient with macular degeneration. .



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