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Addiction Medicine

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December 5, 2019

Ms. Donna Pickett  
Co-Chair, ICD-10-CM Coordination and Maintenance Committee  
National Center for Health Statistics  
ICD-10-CM Coordination and Maintenance Committee  
3311 Toledo Road  
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

Re: ICD-10 Code for Synthetic Cannabinoid Use and Poisoning

Dear Ms. Pickett:

On behalf of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), the national medical specialty society representing over 6,000 physicians and other health professionals who specialize in the prevention and treatment of addiction, we would like to offer our support for the proposal by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to add ICD-10-CM codes for synthetic cannabinoid use and poisoning. Synthetic cannabinoid use and poisonings have caused rising morbidity, mortality, and an overall public health burden across all segments of the population. It's our understanding that there are critical gaps in surveillance that constrain the ability of public health, the medical community, and policy makers to track and understand synthetic cannabinoid use and harms. The addition of these codes will help close these gaps and help create the data necessary to better understand the incidence of synthetic cannabinoid use and poisoning.

We see potential benefit with the addition of ICD-10-CM codes to identify synthetic cannabinoid use and poisoning, and if these codes are added, we are confident that the data collected will benefit public health. Should you have any questions, please contact Kelly Corredor, Vice President, Advocacy and Government Relations at [kcorredor@asam.org](mailto:kcorredor@asam.org) or 301-547-4111.

Sincerely,

Paul H. Earley, MD, DFASAM  
President, American Society of Addiction Medicine