



## Changes to Z-Codes Allowable With ALC Service 99 (Effective April 1, 2016)

### What has changed?

As of April 1, 2016, within the context of alternate level of care (ALC) coding/abstracting, the Z-codes in the table below **cannot** be assigned as the only code associated with ALC service 99.

### Can these Z-codes still be assigned on the abstract?

Yes, they just cannot be the only code associated with ALC service 99. The codes listed below are still valid codes that can apply to any patient; therefore, any of these codes can be assigned as an additional code(s) to add further information about a patient's stay in hospital, when the documentation supports doing so.

### Why has the list of allowable Z-codes that can be associated with ALC service 99 been shortened?

In an effort to improve consistent coding, as well as the quality and comparability of data on the reason for ALC across jurisdictions, the ALC Diagnosis List has been streamlined and the number of Z-codes that can be associated with ALC service 99 has been reduced. The purpose of assigning a Z-code with ALC service 99 is to help data users understand the main reasons why patients remain in an acute care bed even though they are deemed to not require the intensity of resources and/or services provided in that care setting. The codes in the table below do not meet this purpose.

### Where can I find out more about assigning ALC Z-codes?

For assistance with assigning the correct ALC Z-code that can be associated with ALC service 99 based on the ALC documentation in the chart, refer to the job aid titled *Alternate Level of Care Diagnosis List: Clarification of Use*.



Canadian Institute  
for Health Information

Institut canadien  
d'information sur la santé

**ALC Z-codes that can no longer be associated with ALC service 99 (as of April 1, 2016)**

ICD-10-CA code	Description of change
<p><b>Z50.1 Other physical therapy</b></p>	<p>Within the context of ALC definition/designation, remaining in an acute care bed/facility to receive non-acute physical therapy services is not the ALC reason to associate with ALC service 99.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When ALC patients remain in an acute care bed/facility to receive non-acute physical therapy because                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– They are waiting for admission to a designated rehabilitation hospital/bed to continue ongoing non-acute physical therapy, the ALC code (reason) to associate with ALC service 99 is <i>Z75.1 Person awaiting admission to adequate facility elsewhere</i>.</li> <li>– A rehabilitation facility is not available to provide non-acute physical therapy, the ALC code (reason) to associate with ALC service 99 is <i>Z75.3 Unavailability and inaccessibility of health-care facilities</i>.</li> <li>– They are waiting for home-based physical therapy to be arranged, the ALC code (reason) to associate with ALC service 99 is <i>Z75.2 Other waiting period for investigation and treatment</i>.</li> <li>– The service is not available at home or in the community, the ALC code (reason) to associate with ALC service 99 is <i>Z75.4 Unavailability and inaccessibility of other helping agencies</i>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Z51.5 Palliative care</b></p>	<p>Within the context of ALC definition/designation, remaining in an acute care bed/facility to receive non-acute palliative care is not the ALC reason to associate with ALC service 99.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When ALC patients remain in an acute care bed/facility to receive non-acute palliative care because                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– They are waiting for admission to a designated hospice facility, the ALC code (reason) to associate with ALC service 99 is <i>Z75.1 Person awaiting admission to adequate facility elsewhere</i>.</li> <li>– A hospice facility for palliative care is not available, the ALC code (reason) to associate with ALC service 99 is <i>Z75.3 Unavailability and inaccessibility of health-care facilities</i>.</li> <li>– They are waiting for home-based palliative care services to be arranged, the ALC code (reason) to associate with ALC service 99 is <i>Z75.2 Other waiting period for investigation and treatment</i>.</li> <li>– No palliative home care service is available, the ALC code (reason) to associate with ALC service 99 is <i>Z75.4 Unavailability and inaccessibility of other helping agencies</i>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> The above bullets are examples of possible ALC reasons that may apply when a patient is designated ALC and receives non-acute palliative care in an acute care bed. The examples are not exhaustive. Clinician documentation will assist the coder in selecting the most applicable Z-code (reason) from the allowable list of ALC Z-codes.</p>

ICD-10-CA code	Description of change
<b>Z54.0 Convalescence following surgery</b>	Within the context of ALC definition/designation, remaining in an acute care bed/facility to receive non-acute convalescent care is not the ALC reason to associate with ALC service 99.
<b>Z54.1 Convalescence following radiotherapy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When ALC patients remain in an acute care bed/facility to receive non-acute convalescent care because               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– They are waiting for admission to a non-acute convalescent bed in another facility, the ALC code (reason) to associate with ALC service 99 is Z75.1 <i>Person awaiting admission to adequate facility elsewhere</i>.</li> <li>– There is no facility available for that type of care, the ALC code (reason) to associate with ALC service 99 is Z75.3 <i>Unavailability and inaccessibility of health-care facilities</i>.</li> <li>– There is no household member able to render care, the ALC code (reason) to associate with ALC service 99 is Z74.2 <i>Need for assistance at home and no other household member able to render care</i>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Z54.2 Convalescence following chemotherapy</b>	
<b>Z54.3 Convalescence following psychotherapy</b>	
<b>Z54.4 Convalescence following treatment of fracture</b>	
<b>Z54.7 Convalescence following combined treatment</b>	<p><b>Note:</b> The above bullets are examples of possible ALC reasons that may apply when a patient is designated ALC and receives non-acute convalescent care in an acute care bed. The examples are not exhaustive. Clinician documentation will assist the coder in selecting the most applicable Z-code (reason) from the allowable list of ALC Z-codes.</p>
<b>Z54.8 Convalescence following other treatment</b>	
<b>Z54.9 Convalescence following unspecified treatment</b>	
<b>Z59.3 Problems related to living in residential institution</b>	<p>Within the context of ALC definition/designation, remaining in an acute care bed/facility because of a problem related to where ALC patients live is not the ALC reason to associate with ALC service 99.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If ALC patients remain in an acute care bed/facility because there is a problem with their housing, refer to the codes Z59.1 or Z59.8 in the <i>Alternate Level of Care Diagnosis List: Clarification of Use</i> job aid to determine which code to associate with ALC service 99 based on the details available in the patient record.</li> </ul>
<b>Z59.9 Problem related to housing and economic circumstances, unspecified</b>	<p>Z59.9 is an unspecified code and is not the ALC reason to associate with ALC service 99.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When ALC patients remain in an acute care bed/facility and the ALC reason is documented as a problem with housing or economic circumstances, refer to the codes Z59.0, Z59.1 or Z59.8 in the <i>Alternate Level of Care Diagnosis List: Clarification of Use</i> job aid to determine which code to associate with ALC service 99 based on the details available in the patient record.</li> </ul>

ICD-10-CA code	Description of change
<b>Z60.2 Living alone</b>	<p>In the context of ALC data, Z60.2 overlaps with other allowable ALC Z-codes; therefore, from an ALC data collection perspective, the other allowable Z-codes have been deemed more relevant to report with ALC service 99.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When ALC patients who live alone remain in an acute care bed/facility because                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– They are waiting for assessment to determine an appropriate discharge plan, the ALC code (reason) to associate with ALC service 99 is Z75.2 <i>Other waiting period for investigation and treatment</i>.</li> <li>– They have been approved and are waiting for admission to another facility, the ALC code (reason) to associate with ALC service 99 is Z75.1 <i>Person awaiting admission to adequate facility elsewhere</i>.</li> <li>– They are waiting for a helping service/agency to be arranged, the ALC code (reason) to associate with ALC service 99 is Z75.2 <i>Other waiting period for investigation and treatment</i>.</li> <li>– They require a helping service/agency at home or in the community but no helping service/agency is available for their needs, the ALC code (reason) to associate with ALC service 99 is Z75.4 <i>Unavailability and inaccessibility of other helping agencies</i>.</li> <li>– They have care-provider problems, the ALC code (reason) to associate with ALC service 99 will be selected from category Z74 <i>Problems related to care-provider dependency</i>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> The above bullets are examples of possible ALC reasons that may apply when patients who live alone have been designated ALC. The examples are not exhaustive. Clinician documentation will assist the coder in selecting the most applicable Z-code (reason) from the allowable list of ALC Z-codes.</p> <p>Refer to the <i>Alternate Level of Care Diagnosis List: Clarification of Use</i> job aid to determine which code to associate with ALC service 99.</p>
<b>Z63.2 Inadequate family support</b>	<p>Codes in category Z63 overlap with the codes in category Z74 <i>Problems related to care-provider dependency</i> and Z75 <i>Problems related to medical facilities and other health care</i>; therefore, from an ALC data collection perspective, the codes in category Z74 and Z75 have been deemed more relevant to report with ALC service 99.</p>
<b>Z63.3 Absence of family member</b>	
<b>Z63.7 Other stressful life events affecting family and household</b>	
<b>Z65.1 Imprisonment and other incarceration</b>	<p>For the purpose of ALC data collection, if an ALC reason is documented as a problem related to a legal circumstance, refer to the <i>Alternate Level of Care Diagnosis List: Clarification of Use</i> job aid, specifically Z65.0 <i>Conviction in civil and criminal proceedings without imprisonment</i> and Z65.3 <i>Problems related to other legal circumstances</i>, to help select the applicable code based on the detail available in the chart documentation.</p>
<b>Z75.0 Medical services not available in home</b>	<p>Z75.0 overlaps with Z75.4 <i>Unavailability and inaccessibility of other helping agencies</i>; therefore, from an ALC data collection perspective, Z75.4 has been deemed the relevant code to report with ALC service 99.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When ALC patients remain in an acute care bed/facility to receive a particular health service because the service is not available at home, the ALC code (reason) to associate with ALC service 99 is Z75.4 <i>Unavailability and inaccessibility of other helping agencies</i>.</li> </ul>
<b>Z75.9 Unspecified problem related to medical facilities and other health care</b>	<p>Z75.9 is an unspecified code and is not the ALC reason to associate with ALC service 99.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When ALC patients remain in an acute care bed/facility and the ALC reason is documented as a problem related to medical facilities and other health care, refer to the <i>Alternate Level of Care Diagnosis List: Clarification of Use</i> job aid to determine which code in category Z75 to associate with ALC service 99 based on the details available in the patient record.</li> </ul>