F43.10 PTSD ICD-10 Cheat Sheet

Chart-side reference for licensed mental health clinicians. Verify coding and documentation requirements against current ICD-10-CM guidance, payer policy, and state rules.

Core rule

Use F43.10 when PTSD criteria are met but acute vs chronic duration is not yet supported in the chart. Plan the recheck within three to four sessions.

Use F43.10

- Criterion A pathway named
- B, C, D, and E clusters mapped
- Duration still under review
- Functional impairment described

Recode when known

- F43.11: acute timeline
- F43.12: chronic timeline
- Document what changed
- Replace F43.10 on later claims

Keep evidence visible

- PCL-5 at intake
- Recheck at session six
- Progress note carries rationale
- Treatment plan matches symptoms

Audit-sensitive documentation pattern

- State why unspecified is being used today instead of acute or chronic.
- Name the planned reassessment point and the data needed to resolve the specifier.
- Map symptom clusters to client report or observation rather than listing the code alone.
- Keep diagnostic justification in the progress note and treatment plan, not psychotherapy notes.

Clinician control

Emosapien surfaces candidate diagnostic evidence and note language. The clinician makes the diagnosis and approves the record.