

Z-CODES

A Mini Training Session for
Co-Located Counselors
March 2023





WHAT IS A Z-CODE?

Provide descriptions for when the symptoms a client displays do not point to a specific disorder, but still warrant treatment.



HOW DO THE Z-CODES BENEFIT OUR SUD CLIENTS AND US AS PROVIDERS?

What's the purpose?

To help ensure clients receive services, support, necessary attention and make it easier for behavioral health facilities to code and bill

Social Determinants of Health



Source: California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA)
CalAIM Documentation Guides



WHAT Z-CODES ARE ALLOWED FOR DMC-ODS PROVIDERS?

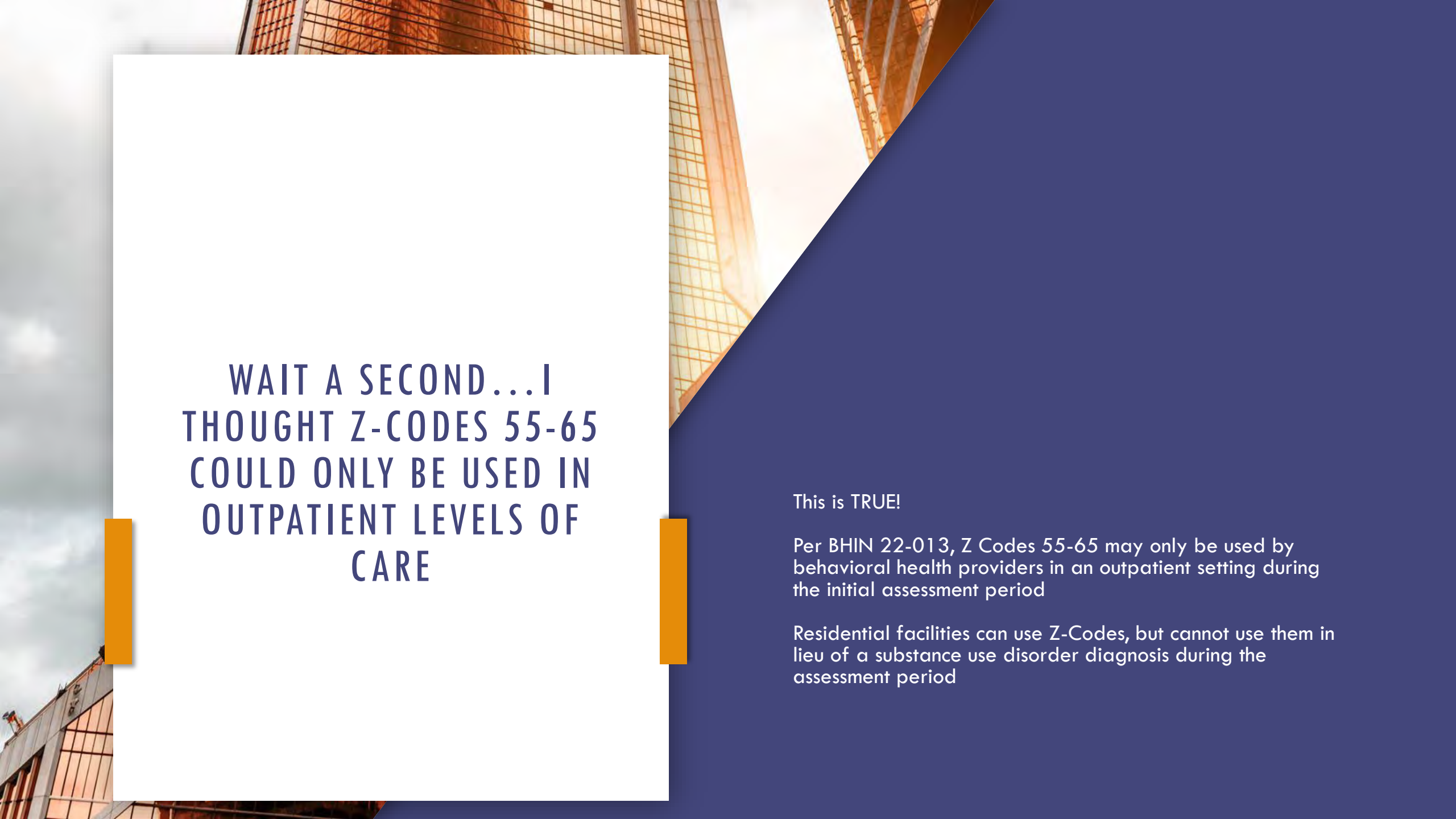
Z55-Z65

**Persons with potential health hazards
related to socioeconomic and psychosocial
circumstances**



WHO CAN USE Z-CODES 55-65?

The CalAIM Initiative has made it possible for Substance Use Counselors to utilize Z-Codes, along with those operating as LPHAs (including Medical Directors)



**WAIT A SECOND... I
THOUGHT Z-CODES 55-65
COULD ONLY BE USED IN
OUTPATIENT LEVELS OF
CARE**

This is TRUE!

Per BHIN 22-013, Z Codes 55-65 may only be used by behavioral health providers in an outpatient setting during the initial assessment period

Residential facilities can use Z-Codes, but cannot use them in lieu of a substance use disorder diagnosis during the assessment period

WHEN CAN Z-CODES 55-65 BE USED?

During the Initial Assessment Period

Up to 60 days for those under 21 years of age

Up to 30 days for those 21 and over or up to 60 days for those documented as experiencing homelessness

Throughout course of service provision/treatment

WELL,
WHAT ARE SOME
EXAMPLES?

CALMHSA DOCUMENTATION MANUAL Z- CODES

Appendix IV: DHCS Priority SDOH Codes

Code	Description
Z55.0	Illiteracy and low-level literacy
Z58.6	Inadequate drinking-water supply
Z59.00	Homelessness unspecified
Z59.01	Sheltered homelessness
Z59.02	Unsheltered homelessness
Z59.1	Inadequate housing (lack of heating/space, unsatisfactory surroundings)
Z59.3	Problems related to living in residential institution
Z59.41	Food insecurity
Z59.48	Other specified lack of adequate food
Z59.7	Insufficient social insurance and welfare support
Z59.811	Housing instability, housed, with risk of homelessness
Z59.812	Housing instability, housed, homelessness in past 12 months
Z59.819	Housing instability, housed unspecified
Z59.89	Other problems related to housing and economic circumstances
Z60.2	Problems related to living alone
Z60.4	Social exclusion and rejection (physical appearance, illness or behavior)
Z62.819	Personal history of unspecified abuse in childhood
Z63.0	Problems in relationship with spouse or partner
Z63.4	Disappearance & death of family member (assumed death, bereavement)
Z63.5	Disruption of family by separation and divorce (marital estrangement)
Z63.6	Dependent relative needing care at home
Z63.72	Alcoholism and drug addiction in family
Z65.1	Imprisonment and other incarceration
Z65.2	Problems related to release from prison
Z65.8	Other specified problems related to psychosocial circumstances (religious or spiritual problem)

DIGGING INTO THE Z-CODES

Z-Code	Description	Example(s)
Z59.00	Homelessness Unspecified	
Z59.01	Sheltered Homelessness	Living in a shelter such as: motel, scattered site housing, temporary or transitional living situation
Z59.02	Unsheltered Homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residing in place not meant for human habitation such as: abandoned buildings, cars, parks, sidewalk Residing on the street
Z59.1	Inadequate Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of heating Restriction of space Technical defects in home preventing adequate care Unsatisfactory surroundings

CONTINUING TO DIG...

Z-Code	Description	Example(s)
Z59.41	Food insecurity	
Z59.48	Other specified lack of adequate food	
Z59.7	Insufficient social insurance and welfare support	

THERE'S MORE...

Z-Code	Description	Example
Z63.0	Problems in relationship with spouse or partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner relational problem • Partner relational problem counseling • Partner relationship problem • Problem with aged spouse or partner • Problems with aged spouse or partner • Relationship distress with spouse or intimate partner
Z53.4	Disappearance & death of family member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assumed death of a family member • Bereavement • Family disruption due to death of a family member
Z63.5	Disruption of family by separation and divorce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marital estrangement • Disruption of family by separation or divorce • Divorce • Family disruption due to divorce • Family disruption due to legal separation • Family disruption due to separation and divorce • Family disruption with separation
Z63.6	Dependent relative needing care at home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care of sick or handicapped person in family • Cares for dependent relative at home • Cares for sick or handicapped family member
Z63.72	Alcoholism and drug addiction in family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult child of alcoholic • Adult child of alcoholic (aca) • Family history of substance abuse • Substance abuse in family

LAST EXAMPLES...FOR NOW

Z-Code	Description	Example(s)
Z65.1	Imprisonment and other incarceration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conviction, with imprisonment• Anxiety concerning imprisonment
Z65.2	Problems related to release from prison	
Z65.8	Other specified problems related to psychosocial circumstances (religious or spiritual problem)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Religious or spiritual problem• Spiritual problem

WHERE DO THEY GO?

Can be used as the Primary
Dx when opening a client
Admission & Discharge

Problem List



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?

Z-Codes are important in being able to provide services from the from the initial assessment

They help to paint a more clear clinical picture of the client

Useful in determining ancillary services, linkages and referrals that could be beneficial for the client