

NHS Classifications Browser

User Guide

September 2026



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Important information

General

Should you experience any performance issues with the NHS Classifications Browser or if you would like to send feedback and improvement suggestions, please contact support.digitalservices@nhs.net or use our [Customer Service Portal](#).

Information and updates on known performance issues or outages will be posted on [Delen](#).

ICD-10

The NHS in England uses the ICD-10 content as released by the WHO and the Classifications Browser replicates the printed versions of the books, this means that:

- American spelling is used in the Alphabetical Index, **see [Search for more details on this](#)**
- Diacritics (marks placed above or below a letter in a word to indicate pronunciation, e.g. Sézary) are used in the classifications, **see [Search for more details on this](#)**
- Activity codes in Chapter XX External causes of morbidity and mortality and the Morphology of neoplasm section, although not used in the NHS in England, are still present within the Classifications Browser

The exceptions to this are the alterations listed in [ICD-10 Classifications Content Changes](#), which have been corrected in the content within the Classifications Browser.

The ICD-10 5th Edition Volume 2 – Instruction Manual can be accessed on [Delen](#). See the Introduction within the ICD-10 5th Edition National Clinical Coding Standards for further information on the use of the Volume 2 - Instruction manual.

Tree sync issue when viewing N in the ICD-10 Alphabetical Index

When an entry is selected in the tree under 'Alphabetical N' from 'Naegle's' through to 'Neoplasm'; the entry selected in the tree is correctly shown in the classification contents pane, but the tree syncs to 'Zuckermandl's organ' which is the last entry in the Neoplasm table.

This issue will be investigated to identify a fix.

Additional Resources

The following resources are available on [Delen](#) and we recommend new users review and refer to these whilst using the Browser:

- The Coding Process using the NHS Classifications Browser - available in various formats
- NHS Classifications Browser Functionality Features and Benefits

New users will also find information on suggested actions you can take to get used to using the NHS Classifications Browser within [Transition to Electronic Classifications – Activities for Clinical Coders and Coding Departments](#).

[Delen](#) also contains the NHS Classifications Browser Hints and Tips which has information on web browser features that can be used with the NHS Classifications Browser including split screen and more information on the use of bookmarks.

Offline Mode

To ensure the NHS Classifications Browser remains accessible and functional when internet connection is lost, standard browser technology called a Service Worker is used. The Service Worker automatically downloads and stores essential website files (such as HTML, stylesheets, and scripts) in your internet browser's local cache storage. This process operates entirely on your device, does not collect, track, or share any personal data, and is strictly limited to delivering offline availability. You can clear this stored data at any time by clearing your browser's cache and site data.

In order to access offline mode you must have first accessed the NHS Classifications Browser when online. The Service Worker takes between 2 and 5 minutes to cache content at the first visit to the NHS Classifications Browser.

When the NHS Classifications Browser is unavailable (e.g. internet connection is lost, network issues, server downtime, or returning errors like **404** or **500**) the Browser will automatically go into offline mode. This is indicated in orange text at the top of the screen:



Offline mode Home ICD-10 5th Edition OPCS-4 ▼

When access is restored, you are automatically returned to online mode, and the banner is not displayed.

You can test the offline mode by opening the NHS Classifications Browser, waiting approximately 5 minutes to allow content to be stored locally, and then disconnect from the internet. Refresh the page and you will see the 'Offline mode' banner displayed at the top of the screen. You will then be able to access the classifications without an internet connection.

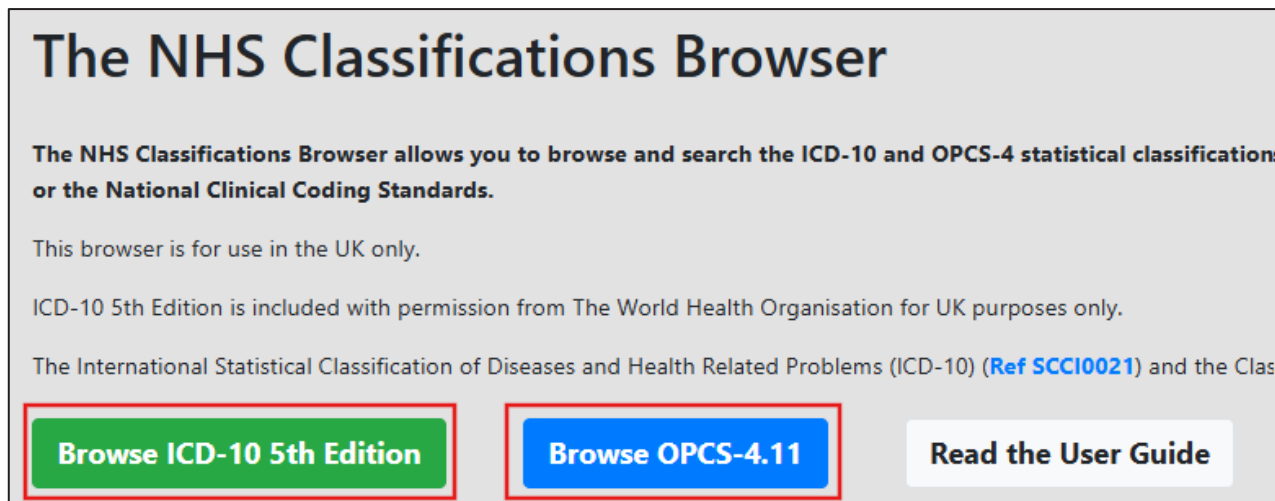
When in offline mode the same functionality is available as when in online mode, except for the search. Search in offline mode is currently in development.

OPCS-4.11 Supplementary Information and Chemotherapy Regimens in Offline Mode

When accessing the Chemotherapy Regimens or OPCS-4 Supplementary information from the National Clinical Coding Standards drop down when in offline mode, behaviour will depend on the internet browser you are using and the settings. You may need to change the internet browser settings so that these documents are downloaded rather than opened in the browser in order to view them.

Access the Classifications

Access the current versions of the ICD-10 and OPCS-4 classifications using the buttons on the home page.



The NHS Classifications Browser

The NHS Classifications Browser allows you to browse and search the ICD-10 and OPCS-4 statistical classifications or the National Clinical Coding Standards.

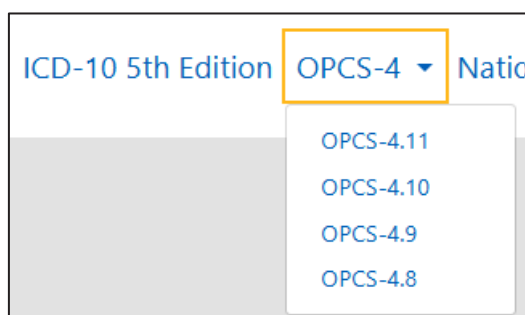
This browser is for use in the UK only.

ICD-10 5th Edition is included with permission from The World Health Organisation for UK purposes only.

The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Health Related Problems (ICD-10) (Ref SCCI0021) and the Clas

[Browse ICD-10 5th Edition](#) [Browse OPCS-4.11](#) [Read the User Guide](#)

Or using links in the top right of the home page. You can also access past versions here.

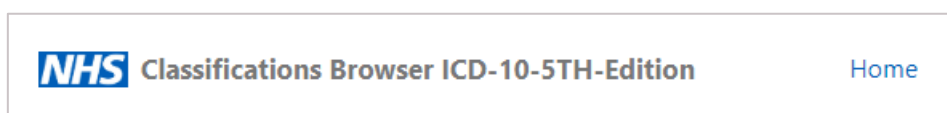


ICD-10 5th Edition OPCS-4 ▾ National Clinical Coding Standards

- OPCS-4.11
- OPCS-4.10
- OPCS-4.9
- OPCS-4.8

When one of these links is selected the page is displayed in the current tab. You can open the link in another tab by right clicking on the link and selecting 'Open link in new tab'. This will allow you to have both ICD-10 and OPCS-4 classifications open in separate tabs.

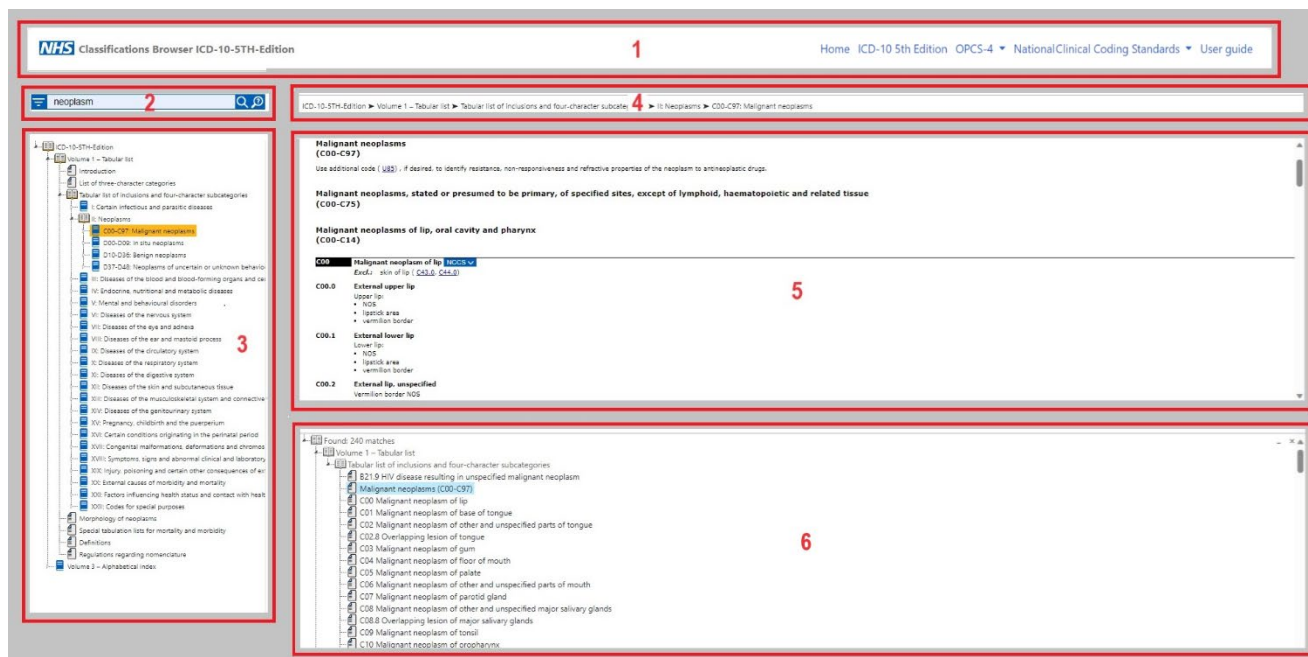
The classification and version selected is displayed in the top left of the screen. Click on 'Home' to return to the home page.



NHS Classifications Browser ICD-10-5TH-Edition [Home](#)

You can create a desktop shortcut and pin the NHS Classifications Browser to the start menu or taskbar. The method to do this will depend on which web browser you are using.

Layout



1. Header

Navigate to the NHS Classifications Browser Home page and the ICD-10 and OPCS-4 classifications. Download the National Clinical Coding Standards, OPCS-4 Supplementary Information, OPCS-4 Chemotherapy Regimens List and NHS Classifications Browser User guide and access past version of the National Clinical Coding Standards

2. Search pane

Enter and clear search terms, filter searches and access search help

3. Tree pane

See and navigate through the hierarchy of the classification.

4. Ribbon

See the full location of the content, that is listed at the top of the classification content pane, within the classification

5. Classification content pane

See the content of the classification

6. Search results pane

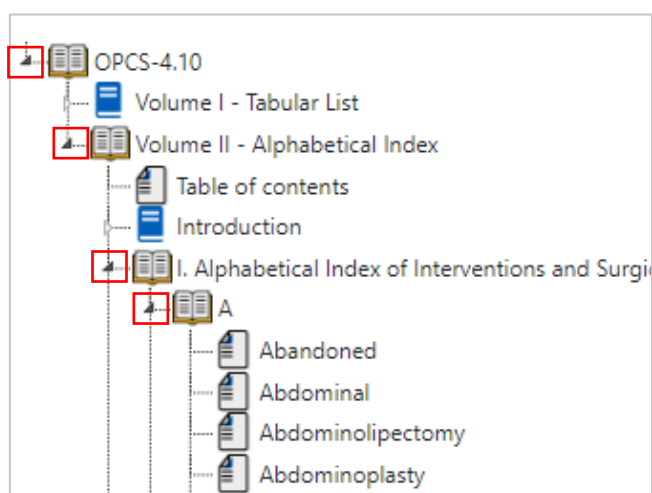
See and select results of searches.

Navigation

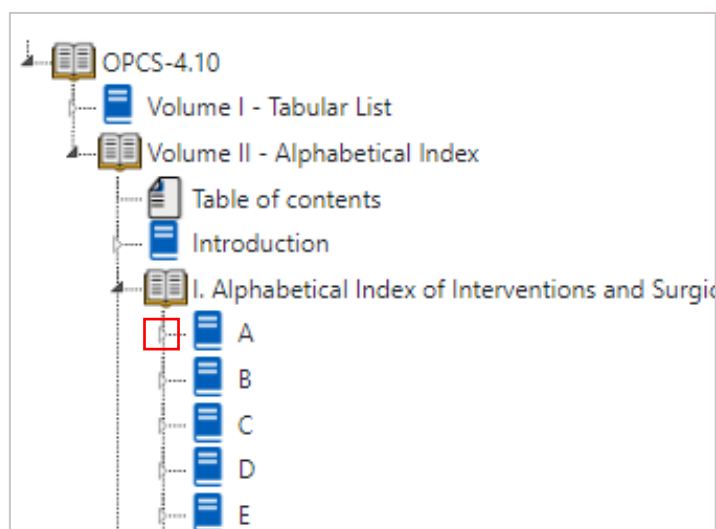
The Classification content is structured and presented in the same format as the printed books and can be used in the same way, but with the additional benefits that an electronic product provides.

The classification hierarchy is presented in the tree pane and this allows you to see and quickly navigate through each volume, section, chapter, block and category within the Tabular List. In the Alphabetical Index each section is broken down into each alphabetical letter, lead term (and essential modifiers in ICD-10). The presence of the tree pane means you don't have to scroll through multiple pages of content to find the appropriate Alphabetical Index or Tabular List entry.

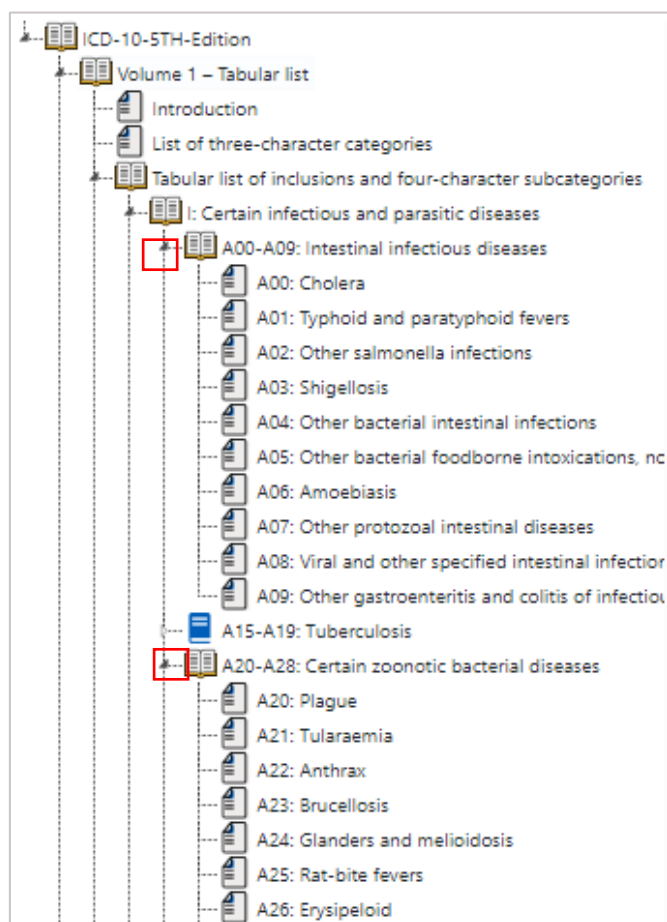
Navigate through the classification hierarchy by expanding the nodes (triangles) within the tree. Select a node to expand the section; the content of the section will be displayed and the opened node will change colour to black:



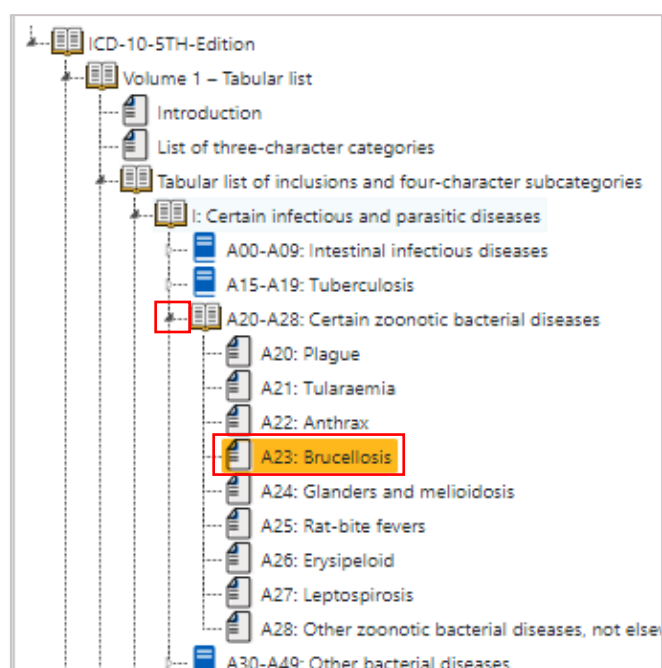
Reselect the open node to collapse the section:



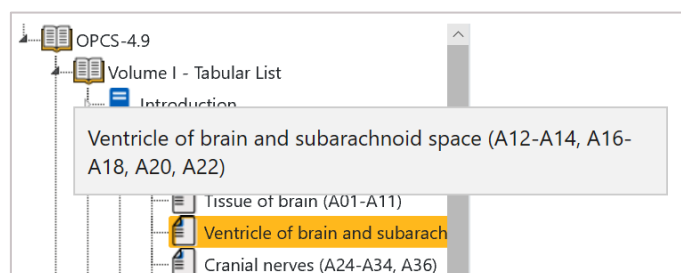
You can open multiple nodes concurrently to see the contents of each section:



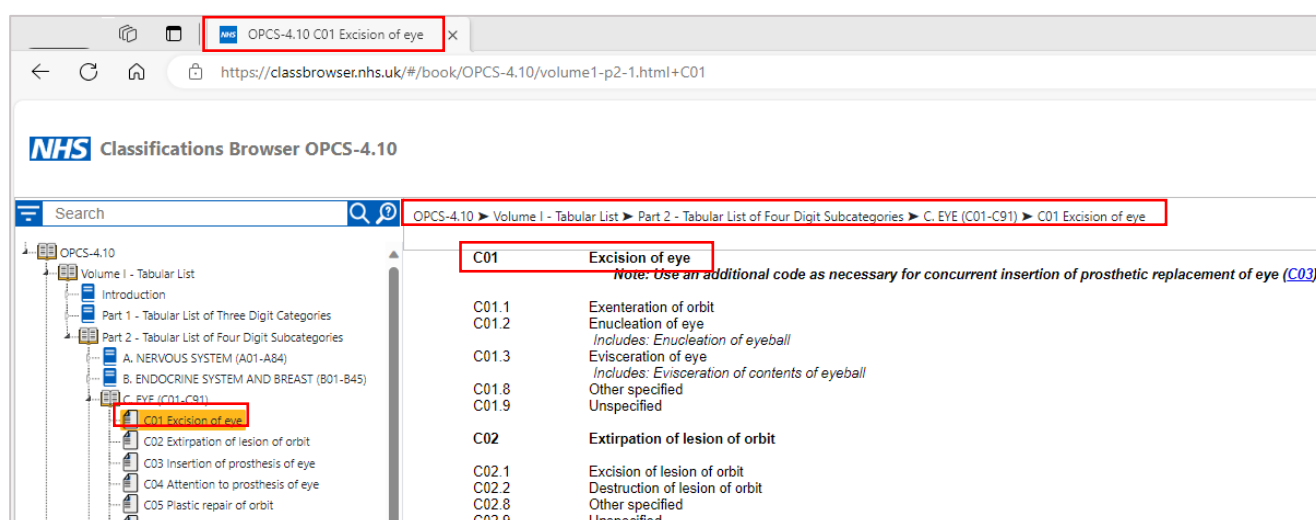
When a heading (which may be a section, chapter, block, category, lead term or essential modifier) is selected, rather than a node, all other opened nodes are closed, except for the node containing the selected heading:



Where the full entry cannot be seen in the tree pane, hover over the text to display it in full:



Selecting an entry in the tree highlights the entry and the full content from the classification is displayed in the classification content pane. The location within the classification is also displayed in the ribbon at the top of the pane and in the internet browser tab description.



When scrolling through the classification the tree and ribbon will sync to show the location of the content in the contents pane.

When scrolling through the classifications content pane you can mark an Alphabetical index or Tabular list entry so that you can continue scrolling and return to the marked entry. This can be particularly helpful when looking for the lead term of an essential modifier where the lead term has a large number of essential modifiers or when verifying codes in the tabular list as you can mark the code and scroll up or down the categories and codes in the same range.

Do this by double clicking on a word to select the word:

- auditory perception NEC [H93.2](#)
 - autosomes NEC [Q99.9](#)
 - fragile site [Q95.5](#)
 basal metabolic rate [R94.8](#)

A02.1 Excision of lesion of tissue of frontal lobe of brain
 A02.2 Excision of lesion of tissue of temporal lobe of brain
 A02.3 Excision of lesion of tissue of parietal lobe of brain

Or triple click to select the text in a row:

Z22.5 Adenoid site
 E20.1 Adenoidectomy
 E20.4 Adenoidectomy Diathermy Suction
 F67.3 Adjustment Appliance Intraoral

R78.2 Finding of cocaine in blood
 R78.3 Finding of hallucinogen in blood
 R78.4 Finding of other drugs of addictive potential in blood
 R78.5 Finding of psychotropic drug in blood

Links

Throughout the classification contents pane there are clickable links that when selected take you to the respective chapter, block, category, code, etc.

In the ICD-10 and OPCS-4 Alphabetical Index select the blue code (underlined in ICD-10) to be taken to the code in the Tabular List.

Search

OPCS-4.9 ► Volume II - Alphabetical Index ► I. Alphabetical Index of Interventions and Surgical Procedures ► A ► Ablation

Volume II - Alphabetical Index

- Table of contents
- Introduction
- I. Alphabetical Index of Intervention
 - A
 - Abandoned
 - Abdominal
 - Abdominoplasty
 - Abdominoplasty
 - Abdominovaginal
 - Ablation**
 - Access

K57.4	Ablation - see also Destruction
K62.2	Ablation - see also Extirpation
K57.5	Ablation - see also Resection
	Ablation Accessory Pathway Transluminal Percutaneous
	Ablation Atrial Wall Atrial Flutter Transluminal Percutaneous
	Ablation Atrial Wall Transluminal Percutaneous NEC
K52.-	Ablation Atrioventricular Node
K57.1	Ablation Atrioventricular Node Transluminal Percutaneous
K62.1	Ablation Atrium Left to Vein Pulmonary Transluminal Percutaneous
W35.6	Ablation Bone Lesion Radiofrequency Percutaneous
A03.-	Ablation Brain Tissue Stereotactic
Q16.2	Ablation Endometrium Balloon
Q17.7	Ablation Endometrium Balloon Endoscopic
Q17.6	Ablation Endometrium Microwave Endoscopic
Q16.3	Ablation Endometrium Microwave NEC
Q16.6	Ablation Endometrium Photodynamic

Search

OPCS-4.9 ► Volume I - Tabular List ► Part 2 - Tabular List of Four Digit Subcategories ► K. HEART (K01-K78) ► K62 Therapeutic transluminal operations on heart

K01 Other cardiac pacemaker system

K62 Therapeutic transluminal operations on heart

K63 Contrast radiology of heart

K64 Percutaneous operations on heart

K65 Catheterisation of heart

K66 Other operations on heart

K67 Excision of pericardium

K62.2	Percutaneous transluminal ablation of atrial wall for atrial flutter
K62.3	Percutaneous transluminal ablation of conducting system of heart for atrial flutter NEC
K62.4	Percutaneous transluminal internal cardioversion NEC
	<i>Excludes: Implantation of cardioverter defibrillator (K59)</i>
K62.5	Percutaneous transluminal occlusion of left atrial appendage
	<i>Includes: Percutaneous transluminal exclusion of left atrial appendage</i>
	<i>Excludes: Exclusion of left atrial appendage NEC (K22.3)</i>
K62.8	Other specified
K62.9	Unspecified

Within the ICD-10 Alphabetical index you can also select the cross-references to be taken to that entry within the Alphabetical Index:

Search

ICD-10-5TH Edition ► Volume 3 - Alphabetical index ► Alphabetical index to diseases and nature of injury ► Alphabetical A ► Aberrant (congenital)

Aberrant (congenital)

- adrenal gland [Q89.1](#)
- artery (peripheral) NEC [Q27.8](#)
- breast [Q83.8](#)
- endocrine gland NEC [Q89.2](#)
- hepatic duct [Q44.5](#)

Cross-references within the OPCS-4 Alphabetical Index do not currently appear as links so you have to navigate to the cross-referenced term manually (we aim to correct this in a future release). You can also highlight the term and drag and drop it into the search box.

In the ICD-10 and OPCS-4 Tabular List, you can use the links to navigate elsewhere within the classification.

K61 Other cardiac pacemaker system

K62 Therapeutic transluminal operations on heart [NCCS](#)

Note: Principal [K57](#)

K62.1 Percutaneous transluminal ablation of pulmonary vein to left atrium conducting system

K62.2 Percutaneous transluminal ablation of atrial wall for atrial flutter

K62.3 Percutaneous transluminal ablation of conducting system of heart for atrial flutter NEC

K62.4 Percutaneous transluminal internal cardioversion NEC

Excludes: Implantation of cardioverter defibrillator ([K59](#))

K62.5 Percutaneous transluminal occlusion of left atrial appendage

Includes: Percutaneous transluminal exclusion of left atrial appendage

Excludes: Exclusion of left atrial appendage NEC ([K22.3](#))

K62.8 Other specified

K62.9 Unspecified

ICD-10 Place of occurrence codes

When assigning ICD-10 codes in Chapter XX External causes of morbidity and mortality the fourth character 'Place of occurrence codes' can be found by selecting the Chapter heading in the tree and scrolling down the page on the right.

ICD-10-5TH-Edition ▶ Volume 1 – Tabular list ▶ Tabular list of inclusions and four-character subcategories

Chapter XX
External causes of morbidity and mortality (V01-Y98)
NCCS ✓

This chapter, which in previous revisions of ICD constituted a supplementary classification, permits the classification of external causes of morbidity and mortality in addition to a code from another chapter of the Classification indicating the nature of the condition. Most codes are classified to both Chapter XIX and Chapter XX, but if only one code is tabulated then the code from Chapter XX should be used to provide additional information for multiple-condition analysis only.

Categories for sequelae of external causes of morbidity and mortality are included at Y85-Y89.

This chapter contains the following blocks:

[V01-X59](#) Accidents
[V01-V99](#) Transport accidents

V01-V09	Pedestrian injured in transport accident
V10-V19	Pedal cyclist injured in transport accident
V20-V29	Motorcycle rider injured in transport accident
V30-V39	Occupant of three-wheeled motor vehicle injured in transport accident
V40-V49	Car occupant injured in transport accident
V50-V59	Occupant of pick-up truck or van injured in transport accident
V60-V69	Occupant of heavy transport vehicle injured in transport accident

Place of occurrence code

The following categories are provided to be used as separate variables in addition to ICD categories W00-W99

0 Home

- Apartment
- Boarding-house
- Caravan [trailer] park, residential
- Farmhouse
- Home premises
- House (residential)
- Noninstitutional place of residence
- Private:
 - driveway to home
 - garage
 - garden to home
 - yard to home
- Swimming-pool in private house or garden

Backwards and forwards navigation

You can navigate between classification content pages that you have looked at previously by selecting the backwards and forwards buttons within your web browser.

Bookmarks

You can create bookmarks within your web browser for specific locations within the classification. The method by which this will be performed will depend on your web browser application. See the NHS Classifications Browser Hints and Tips on [Delen](#) for more information on the use of bookmarks.

Copying content

Content can be copied from the Browser and pasted into other applications such as Microsoft Word. The pasted content may require some simple formatting alterations to such

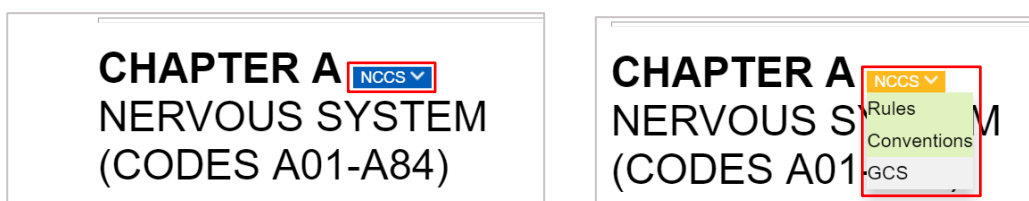
things as bullet points and numbering, list level and styles. You can also copy full index trails from the browser Ribbon (this is especially useful for ICD-10 index trails whereby the ribbon displays the lead term and modifiers).

Text size

Change the text size by changing the font size setting or changing the zoom setting within your web browser. You can also press and hold 'Ctrl' and use the scroll button on your mouse to change the text size.

National Clinical Coding Standards

Where a National Clinical Coding Standard is relevant to a Chapter, Category or Code the NCCS icon will be shown. Hover over the NCCS icon and the relevant references will be displayed.



Click on a reference and the standard will display in a separate tab.

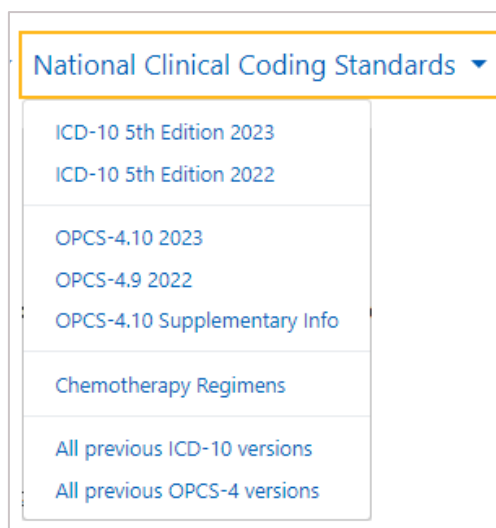
The NCCS links are updated at the start of each financial year to reflect any changes to coding standards and direct to the updated National Clinical Coding Standards.

When the NCCS link is selected, the page within the National Clinical Coding Standards that contains the selected standard is displayed, it does not link to the specific location of the standard on the page.

In some cases when an NCCS link is selected the National Clinical Coding Standards PDF document opens on the first page of the publication rather than the page that contains the standard. This behaviour is due to the Adobe Acrobat extension and can be altered, so that the page containing the standard is opened, by disabling the extension or by opening the Adobe Acrobat extension options and turning off 'Open all PDFs in Acrobat'.

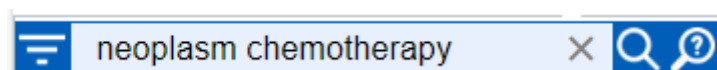
The links to standards are only for use in the NHS in England. For links to the coding standards used in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, see the Home page.

You can also download the current and previous version of the National Clinical Coding Standards from the drop down on the home page. The drop down also contains links to all previous release of the National Clinical Coding Standards.



Search

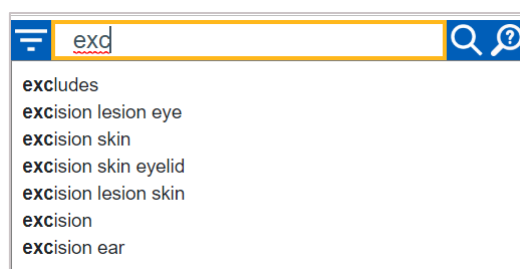
To search, enter text and select search  or press enter.



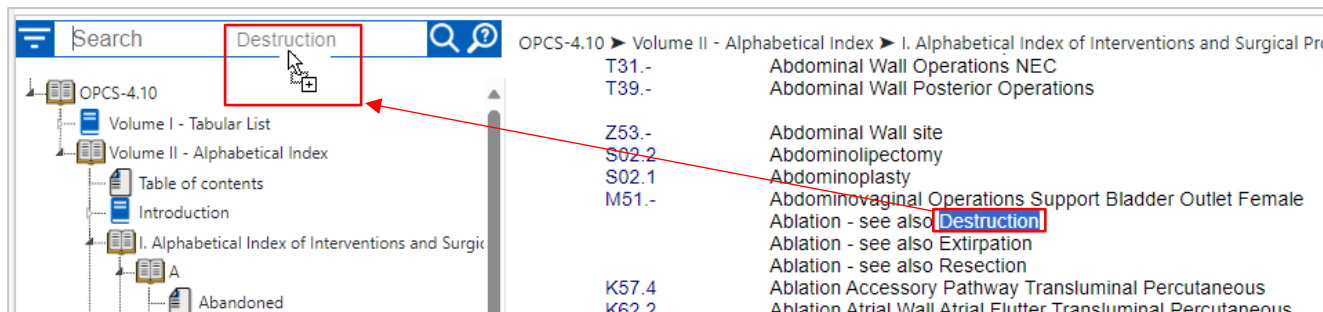
- Your search may contain text and/or categories and codes.
- You must enter at least 3 characters to start a search.
- To clear the search box and start a new search select the X icon.
- Select the search help icon  to display the search section of the user guide in a separate tab.

When navigating from ICD-10 to OPCS-4, and vice versa, after a search has been performed the search pane will be reset and the search results pane will be closed.

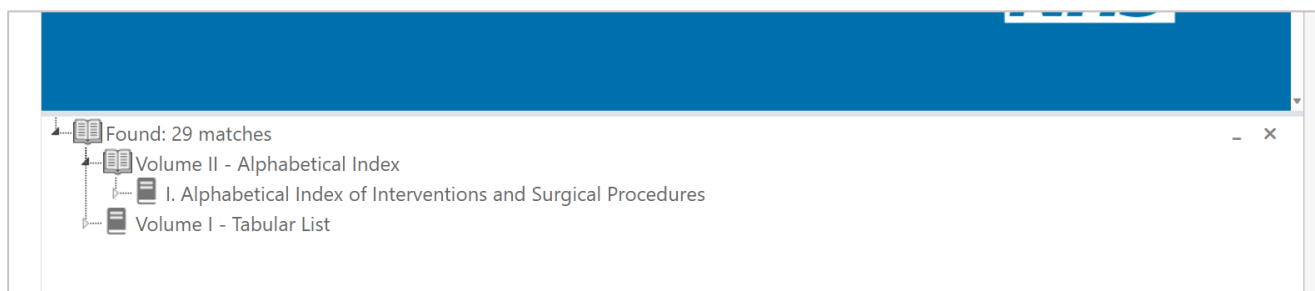
When a new search is started, after entering at least three characters, previous matching search results are displayed underneath the search box. Select a previous search without having to type the full search string.



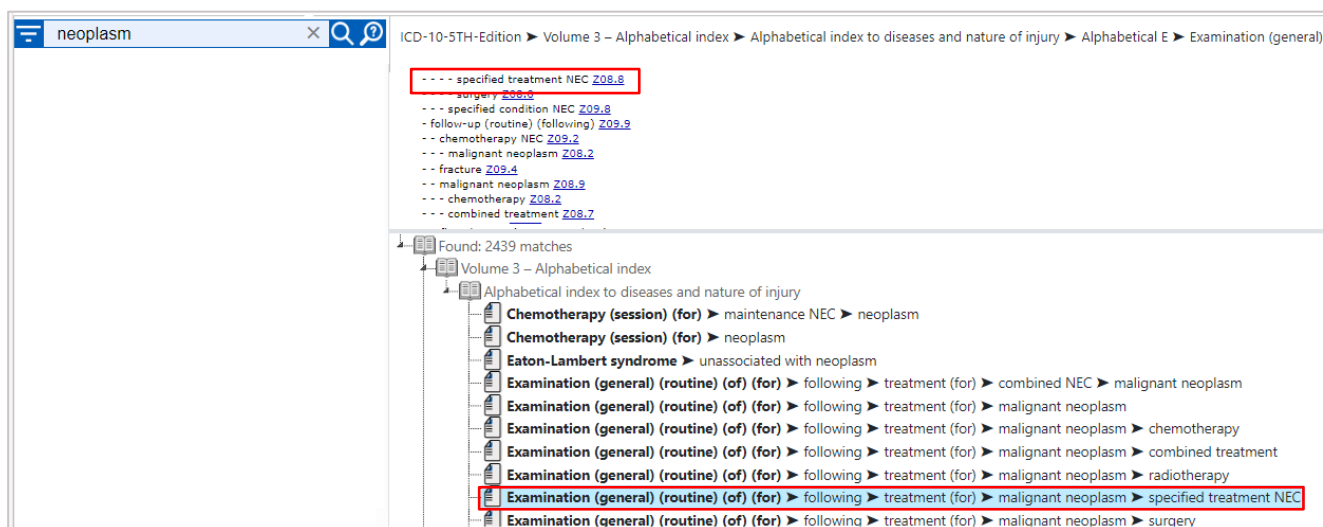
You can also drag and drop words, categories and codes into the search box by highlighting the term, selecting and holding the left mouse button and dragging the term and dropping into the search box. You can do this with words from any other application (such as Word or a PDF).



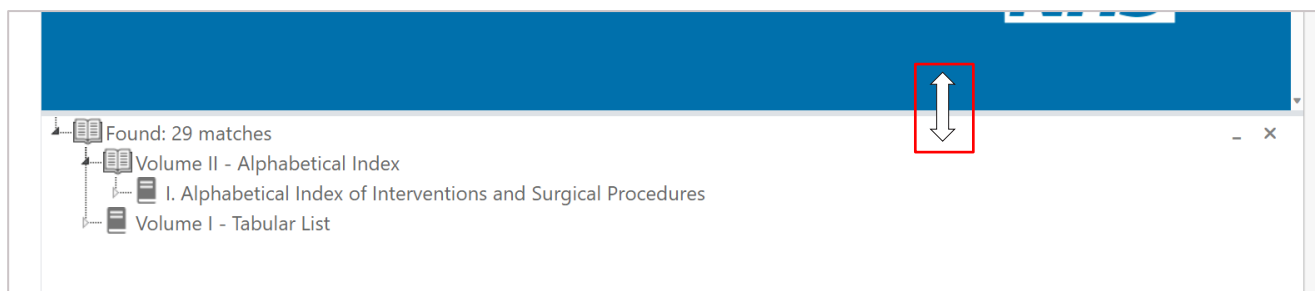
The results of the search are displayed in the search results pane. The number of results (to a maximum of 3000) and their location in the classification are shown. The order of the results mirrors the order they appear in the classification (i.e. in alphabetical order in the Alphabetical Index and chapter, category, and code order in the Tabular List), with results from the Alphabetical Index listed before results from the Tabular List.



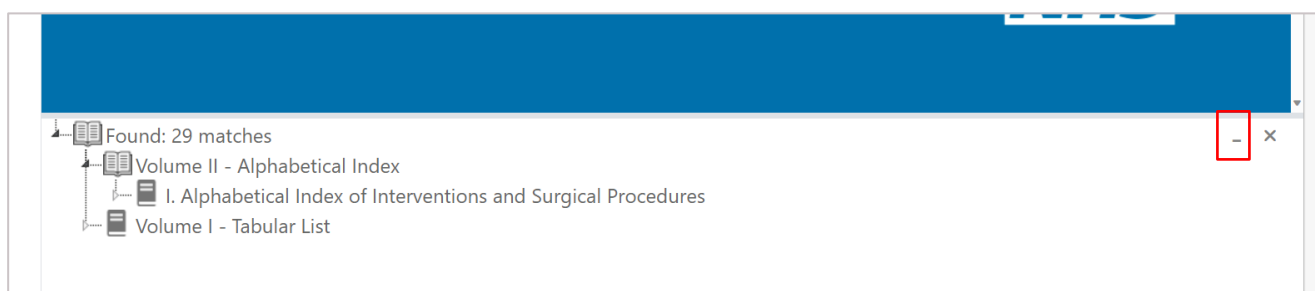
Select a search result to show it in the content pane. The selected result is highlighted in the search results pane allowing you to return to the selected result if you want to scroll through the other search results.



Resize the search results pane by hovering over the grey line at the top of the pane and dragging the arrow up or down.



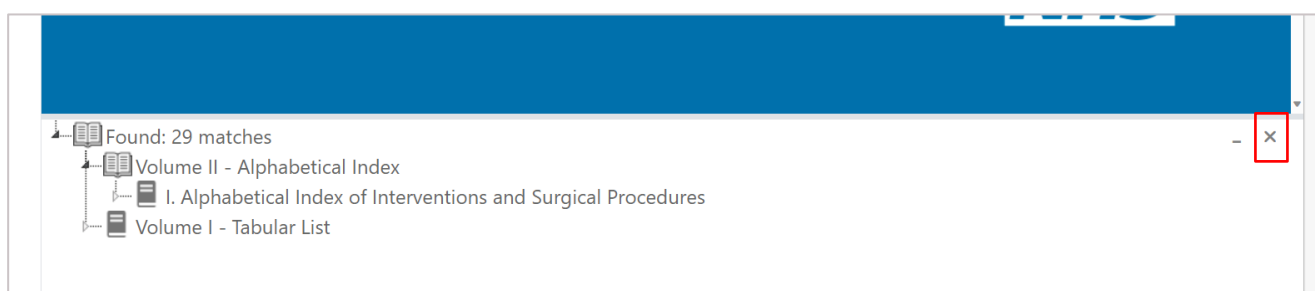
Minimise the results by selecting the minimise icon at the top right of the pane.



Select 'Show search results' in the bottom right of the screen, to re-open the search results pane.

Show search results

Close the search by selecting the X icon at the top right of the pane; this will also cause the 'Show search results' box to disappear.



OPCS-4 search

In OPCS-4 the default search returns results from the following sections:

- **Volume II – Alphabetical Index,**
 - **I. Alphabetical Index of Interventions and Surgical Procedures**
 - **II. Alphabetical Index of Surgical Eponyms**
 - **III. Alphabetical Index of Surgical Abbreviations**
 - **V. Alphabetical Index of Common Procedures and Combinations**

- Volume I – Tabular List

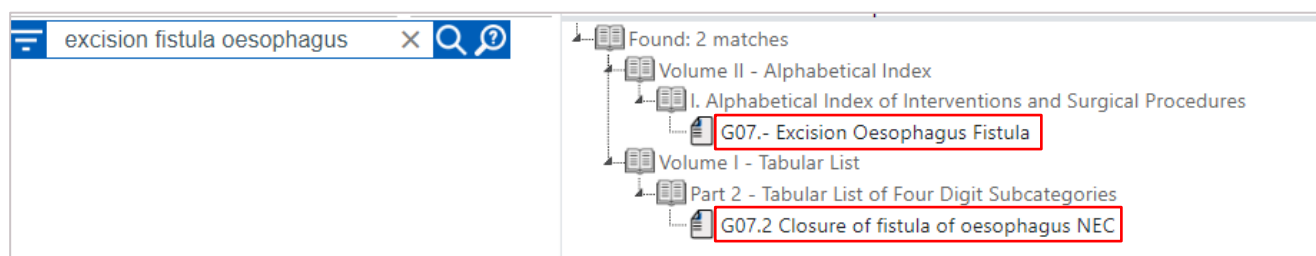
o Part 2 – Tabular List of Four Digit Subcategories.

You can search Part 1 of the Tabular List and Section IV of the Alphabetical Index, and limit the search to only search in certain sections using the filter, see [Search filter](#).

The more words you enter into the search box, the more specific the results will be.

Results from the Alphabetical index are those index entries that contain all of the words, including categories and codes, entered into the search box.

Results from the Tabular Lists are those where the chapter title, category descriptions, or code description and their notes contain all of the words including categories and codes, entered into the search box.



For this search there is one result returned from the Alphabetical index as this contains all of the words entered in the search box.

There is also one entry in the Tabular list. It does not contain all of the searched words as excision is missing; however this result is returned because excision is within the inclusion note at the code:

G07.2	Closure of fistula of oesophagus NEC
	<i>Includes</i> Excision of fistula of oesophagus NEC

If searching using a category (i.e. A01) or code (i.e. A01.1) then the search will return all results from the Alphabetical Index and Tabular list where that category or code is present.

ICD-10 search

In ICD-10 the default search returns results from the following sections:

- Volume 3 – Alphabetical Index

- o Alphabetical index to diseases and nature of injury
- o External causes of injury
- o Table of drugs and chemicals

- Volume 1 – Tabular List

- o Tabular list of inclusions and four-character subcategories.

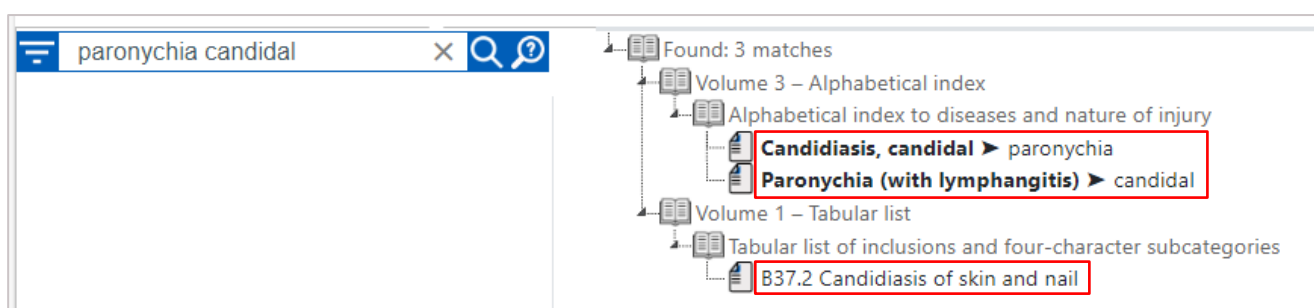
You can limit the search to only search in certain sections using the filter, see [Search filter](#).

The more words you enter into the search box, the more specific the results will be.

Results from the Alphabetical index are those index entries, including lead terms and their essential modifiers, that contain all of the words, including categories and codes, entered into the search box.

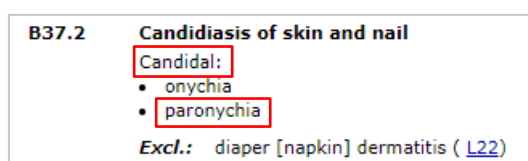
Lead terms are identified in bold and the full index string is displayed. The arrows indicate that the word after it are essential modifiers. Non-essential modifiers are displayed in parentheses.

Results from the Tabular Lists are those where the chapter title, category descriptions, or code description and their notes contain all of the words, including categories and codes, entered into the search box.

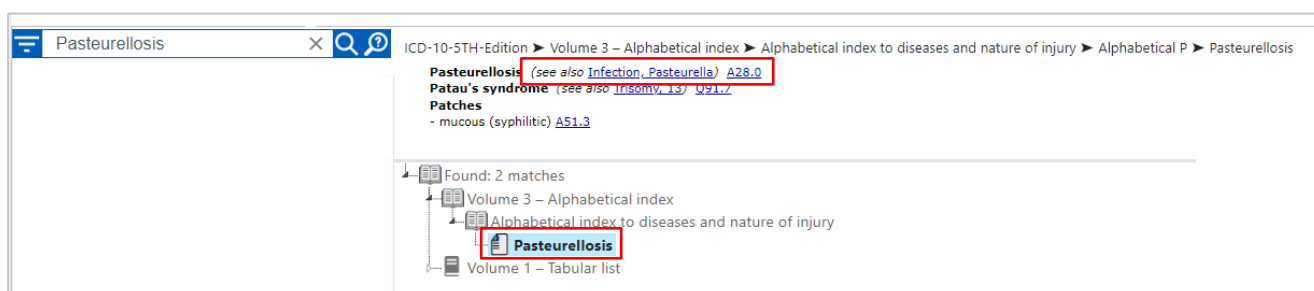


For this search there are two results returned from the Alphabetical index which contain all of the words entered in the search box either as a lead term or an essential modifier. In the first entry candidal is a lead term and paronychia is an essential modifier and vice versa in the second entry.

There is one entry in the Tabular list. It does not contain any of the searched words, however this result is returned because the searched words are within the inclusion note at the code:



Cross references and codes are not shown in the ICD-10 search results, these can be seen in the classification content pane when an entry is selected:



If searching using a category (i.e. A00) or code (i.e. A00.1) then the search will return all results from the Alphabetical Index and Tabular list where that category or code is present.

Spelling in ICD-10

The ICD-10 Alphabetical Index uses American and British spelling¹ (e.g. anemia/anaemia and esophagus/oesophagus) and diacritics (a mark near or through an alphabetic character to represent a pronunciation different from that of the unmarked character, e.g. Sézary) therefore you must be conscious of this when searching ICD-10.

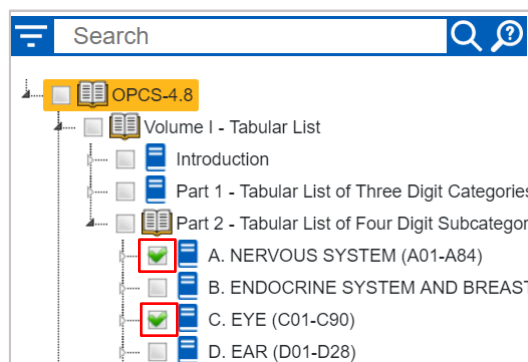
You can perform a fuzzy search by adding a tilde ~ to the end of the search term using the British spelling to identify both British and American spellings and words that contain diacritics. Note this will also identify other similar terms that may not be relevant.

ICD-10 Emergency use codes

The code descriptions for the emergency use codes in categories **U06** and **U07** that classify Zika virus, vaping-related disorder and COVID-19 do not have equivalent Alphabetical Index entries and therefore you can only search for them in the tabular list.

Search filter

When the filter icon  is selected tick boxes display to the side of every entry in the tree allowing you to search in a specific part(s) of the classification. Place a tick in one or multiple boxes to search in only those specific locations and select search:



Select the filter icon again to clear and close the filter.

Wildcard searches

If you are unsure of how a term is spelt you can do the following wildcard searches:

- If you are unsure of a single character use a question mark ?, e.g.
Il?um returns results containing Ileum and Ilium
- If you are unsure of multiple characters use an asterisk *, e.g.
Angio* returns results containing angiography, angioplasty, angiocardiography etc
T*th returns result containing tooth, teeth, tenth, twelfth etc

¹ Volume 3 – Alphabetical index, Introduction, General arrangement of the Index, Spelling

Asterisks can be used multiple times in the same search to reduce the amount of text that you need to type, i.e. you do not need to enter the whole word. E.g. you can search for hyp* ren* dis* pre* instead of hypertensive renal disease pregnancy.

Fuzzy searches

You can do a fuzzy match to find similar terms by using a tilde ~ at the end of a single word, e.g.:

Hysterectomy~ returns results containing hysterectomy and hysterotomy

Use a tilde after the word when searching the ICD-10 Alphabetical Index to identify both British and American spellings and words containing diacritics, as described in the [Search](#) section.

Using OR and NOT

To search for a specific word and exclude another one from the search enter NOT after the word you want the result to contain and before the word you want to exclude, e.g.

Evacuation NOT haematoma will return descriptions containing Evacuation excluding any that contain haematoma

To search for entries that contain a number of terms together in the same description or alone in different descriptions separate the words using OR, e.g.

Evacuation OR haematoma returns results that contain both evacuation and haematoma in the same description and those that contain only haematoma and only evacuation.

Note that both OR and NOT keywords must be in capital letters; if they are not in capitals then 'or' / 'not' will be searched for within the classification content.