

CDC Unintentional Drowning v1
Definition Factsheet & Technical Brief

Description: The purpose of this query is to identify initial visits for unintentional drownings in emergency departments and ambulatory healthcare settings.

New or Revised Definition: New

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Authored by the NSSP Community of Practice.

Table 1. Inclusion and exclusion terms.

Terms	Description
<i>Inclusion</i>	
International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM)	
R05	Cough
R06	Abnormalities of breathing
T75.1XXA	Unspecified effects of drowning and nonfatal submersion, initial encounter
V90 or V92	Drowning and submersion due to accident to watercraft, with or without accident to watercraft
W16	Fall, jump or diving into water
W22.041A	Striking against wall of swimming pool causing drowning and submersion, initial encounter
W65.XXXA	Accidental drowning and submersion while in bath-tub, initial encounter
W67.XXXA	Accidental drowning and submersion while in swimming-pool, initial encounter
W69.XXXA	Accidental drowning and submersion while in natural water, initial encounter
W73.XXXA	Other specified cause of accidental non-transport drowning and submersion, initial encounter
W74.XXXA	Unspecified cause of accidental drowning and submersion, initial encounter
Chief Complaint	
DROWN	
Chief Complaint – Nested Together with AND	
FOUND	
BOTTOM	

Terms	Description
POOL	
Chief Complaint – Water Exposure / Respiratory Context	
UNDER WATER	
WATER	
INHAL	
aspirat	
lung	
turning blue	
Chief Complaint – Nested Together with AND: WATER + swallow + respiratory/co-occurring term	
swallow	
cough	
chest	
breath	
choking	
gasping for air	
Chief Complaint – Water Setting / Location Required with Water Exposure Context	
TUB	
POOL	
BATH	
SWIM	
LAKE	
RIVER	
CREEK	
POND	
OCEAN	
WAVE	
SPRING	
Chief Complaint – Submersion Text Terms	
submer	
Chief Complaint – Nested Together with AND: fall/fell + pool + respiratory/resuscitation term	

Terms	Description
fall / fell	
pool	
cough	
wheeze	
resucit	
Chief Complaint – Nested Together with AND: swim + status term	
swim	
unresponsive	
strugg	
Exclusion	
International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) – Applies only when no accident/water-recreation ICD inclusion pattern is also present	
X71	Intentional self-harm by drowning and submersion
X92	Assault by drowning and submersion
Chief Complaint – DROWN False Positives	
FEEL DROWN	
FELT DROWN	
drowning feel	
drown own fluid	
drown out	
blood drown	
drowniness	
syndrown	
indrown	
withdrown	
drownsy	
breakdrown	
plan drown	
drown self	
drown herself	

Terms	Description
drown himself	
attempting to drown	
attempt to drown	
drowning attempt	
drown it	
sounds like drowning	
sounds like he is drowning	
sounds like she is drowning	
Chief Complaint – Conditional Exclusion: want + drown unless check/evaluat/ried to drown is also present	
want drown	
Chief Complaint – Excluded from UNDER WATER Context	
ear	
eye	
Chief Complaint – Excluded from WATER + Respiratory Context	
substance inhal	
inhalation of substance	
drink water	
ask water	
Chief Complaint – Excluded from BATH Context	
bathroom	
Chief Complaint – SUBMER False Positives	
burn	
cast	
splint	
not submer	
ampu	
sickle	
not fully submer	
partially submer	

Terms	Description
ear	
submerged object	
eye	
submerged up	
deny submer	
denies submer	
no submer	
sting ray	
Chief Complaint – Top-Level Exclusion Terms	
suicid	
assault	

Table 2. ESSENCE syntax.

(, (^DROWN^, andnot, (^FEEL^DROWN^, or, (^FELT^DROWN^, or, ^drowning feel^, or, ^drown^own^fluid^, or, ^drown out^, or, ^blood
drown^, or, ^drowniness^, or, ^syndrown^, or, ^indrown^, or, ^withdrown^, or, ^drownsy^, or, ^breakdrown^, or, ^plan^dro
wn^, or, ^drown^self^, or, ^drown herself^, or, ^drown himself^, or, ^attempting to drown^, or, ^attempt to
drown^, or, ^drowning attempt^, or, ^drown it^, or, ^sounds like drowning^, or, ^sounds like he is
drowning^, or, ^sounds like she is drowning^, or, (^want^drown^, andnot, (^check^, or, ^evaluat^, or, ^tried to
drown^,),),), or, (^FOUND^, and, ^BOTTOM^, and, ^POOL^,), or, (, (, (^UNDER^WATER^, andnot, (^
ear^, or, ^eye^,),), or, (^WATER^, and, (^INHAL^, or, ^aspirat^, or, ^lung^, or, ^turning blue^, or, (^swallow^, AND,
(^cough^, or, ^chest^, or, ^breath^, or, ^choking^, or, ^/[]R05^, or, ^/[]R06^, or, ^gasping for air^,),),), andnot,
(^substance^inhal^, or, ^inhalation of substance^, or, ^drink^water^, or, ^ask^water^,),), and, (^TUB ^, or, ^POOL^, or,
(^BATH^, ANDNOT, ^bathroom^,), or, ^SWIM^, or, ^LAKE^, or, ^RIVER^, or, ^CREEK^, or, ^POND^, or, ^OCEAN^, or, ^
WAVE^, or, ^SPRING^,),), or, (^submer^, ANDNOT, (^burn^, or, ^cast^, or, ^splint^, or, ^not
submer^, or, ^ampu^, or, ^sickle^, or, ^not fully submer^, or, ^partially submer^, or, ^ ear^, or, ^submerged
object^, or, ^eye^, or, ^submerged up^, or, ^deny submer^, or, ^denies submer^, or, ^no submer^, or, ^not
submer^, or, ^sting^ray^,),), or, (^f[ae]ll^, and, ^pool^, and, (^cough^, or, ^wheeze^, or, ^resucit^,),), or, (^swim^, and,
(^unresponsive^, or, ^strugg^,),), or, (^/[]T75.1__ [A;/]^, or, ^/[]T751[0-9X][0-9X][A;/]^, or, ^/[]V9[02].__ [0-9X]
[A;/]^, or, ^/[]V9[02][0-9X][0-9X][0-9X][A;/]^, or, ^/[]W16.__1[A;/]^, or, ^/[]W16[0-9X][0-9X]1[A;/]^, or, ^/[]W16.
[49]1X[A;/]^, or, ^/[]W16[49]1X[A;/]^, or, ^/[]W22.041[A;/]^, or, ^/[]W22041[A;/]^, or, ^/[]W6[579].__ [A;/]^, or, ^/[]
W6[579][0-9X][0-9X][0-9X][A;/]^, or, ^/[]W7[34].__ [A;/]^, or, ^/[]W7[34][0-9X][0-9X][0-9X][A;/]^,), ANDNOT,
(^suicid^, or, ^assault^, or, (, (^/[]X71^, or, ^/[]X92^,), ANDNOT, (^/[]V9[02].__ [A;/]^, or, ^/[]V9[02][0-9X][0-9X][0-
9X][A;/]^, or, ^/[]W16.__1[A;/]^, or, ^/[]W16[0-9X][0-9X]1[A;/]^, or, ^/[]W16.
[49]1X[A;/]^, or, ^/[]W16[49]1X[A;/]^, or, ^/[]W22.041[A;/]^, or, ^/[]W22041[A;/]^, or, ^/[]W6[579].__ [A;/]^, or, ^/[]
W6[579][0-9X][0-9X][0-9X][A;/]^, or, ^/[]W7[34].__ [A;/]^, or, ^/[]W7[34][0-9X][0-9X][0-9X][A;/]^,),),