Saudi Billing System

Summary of Version 3 Updates to SBS and SBSCS

October 2025

Council of Health Insurance

Summary of SBS/SBSCS V3.0 Updates

Summary of V3.0 Release Updates to SBS and SBSCS

Introduction

The Council for Health Insurance has developed the Saudi Billing System (SBS) used for classifying admitted and non-admitted encounters by health care providers for claims submission and reporting.

This document is a summary of the V3.0 updates to the Saudi Billing System and SBS Coding Standards (SBSCS) for implementation on 01 January 2026, and contains amendments based on expert review of the content and structure. It includes refinements to related codes and descriptions to enhance consistency, based on selected gaps identified following the implementation of V2.0.

Summary Statistics – SBS/SBSCS V3.0

Saudi Billing System (SBS):

Total number of Active SBS codes: 9,937

Total number of new SBS codes: 243

Total number of revised descriptions (short/long/both): 2,024

Total number of inactivated SBS codes: 505

Total number of reactivated SBS codes: 1

Total number of new chapters: 1

Total number of blocks: 1573
Note: Most of the new Blocks are assigned to the Laboratory Chapter.

SBS Coding Standards (SBSCS)

Number of new standards: 2

Number of amended standards: 6

Number of retired standards: 2

Summary of SBS/SBSCS V3.0 Updates

SBS Tabular List

MAJOR CHANGES

- **A Tabular List was created in a book format, published as a PDF.**
  - This provides users with access to notes (inclusions, exclusions, code, etc.) applicable to codes. Users can also see the appropriate standard(s) for a code. Access to this Tabular List will enable clinicians to view sections of the classification with codes relevant to their specialty. This represents a significant change to the SBS, resulting in more accurate coding.
- **A new chapter 26, for Rehabilitation Services**
  - Rehabilitation services are classified by the type of clinician delivering the care and the duration of care.
- **Block numbers revised**
  - For Chapters 20 to 26, block numbers were revised resulting in a reduction of the number of codes within certain blocks.
- **New blocks created**
  - For chapter 21, "Laboratory services," blocks were created for each laboratory specialty, providing consistency of codes within each block.
- **Change of other to unlisted**
  - Nomenclature standardization: all descriptions previously categorized as 'other procedures' (e.g., under specific body systems in ACHI) have been standardized to 'unlisted' codes for consistency.
- **Laterality changes**
  - Replaced laterality with 'single' or 'multiple' where appropriate (single/multiple lesions).
  - Retirement of anatomically incorrect bilateral and unilateral codes by creating one new code with final digits -00. This resulted in a return to the ACHI original codes with no split.
- **Spelling revision**
  - Spelling in the text for codes was revised where necessary to British English used in ICD-10-AM and ACHI, for consistency throughout the classification
  - Redundant text was removed

MINOR CHANGES

- **Symbols have been added where standards apply to a code.**
  - SBS Coding Standard icon (■)
  - Australian Coding Standard icon (∇)
  - Billing Instruction icon (ß)
  - Clinical explanation icon (¢)

SBS Alphabetic Index

The SBS Alphabetic Index has been revised:

- Produced in book/PDF format
- Designed to enable easy search for Lead Terms and modifiers
- Lead Terms from the previous page or column have been added at the top of each column to enable easy searching across multiple pages

Separate indices have been created for Dental, Rehabilitation, and Laboratory & Pathology for ease of use by specialty groups; however, the content also remains within the main index.

SBS Coding Standards (SBSCS)

The SBSCS V3.0 are an update and replacement of the previously released V2 "Standards and Guidelines of SBS," which was released in March 2023 and implemented on January 25th, 2024. The SBSCS are designed to be used in conjunction with the Australian Coding Standards (ACS). The V3.0 standards will be implemented on 1st January 2026.

The Saudi Billing System Coding Standards apply to:

- Non-admitted patients
- Procedures for non-admitted patients not covered by the Australian Coding Standards, including laboratory and pathology, ambulance and transport services, evaluation and management interventions, emergency medical services, rehabilitation services, and mortuary services.)

The SBS Coding Standards have been re-formatted for ease of use, and the following headings have been added to each standard where appropriate:

- Introduction
- Definition(s)
- Description(s)
- Rationale
- Rule(s)
- Documentation

New Descriptions have been added to the glossary. This will assist in the application of a standard. These include:

- A new dental patient
- A repeat dental patient
- Telemedicine
- Advanced life support
- Basic life support

Two new SBSCS has been added:

- 3012 Anaesthesia
- 9020 Rehabilitation Packages

Summary of SBS/SBSCS V3.0 Updates

Six SBS Coding Standards have been amended to provide additional clarity and ensure consistency in application and where further guidance considered necessary. They are:

- 4000 Examination and diagnostics
- 6002 Drug and chemical toxicology
- 6010 Examination & culture procedures
- 6020 Blood and cell count
- 7001 Emergency air transport
- 9050 Mortuary preparation

Two SBS Coding Standards and sub-standards have been retired as no classification rule was documented for these standards, and it was not considered that a classification rule was required. They are:

Standards:

- 4022 Incision and Drainage of Abscess (Dental standard)
- 5010 Angiography