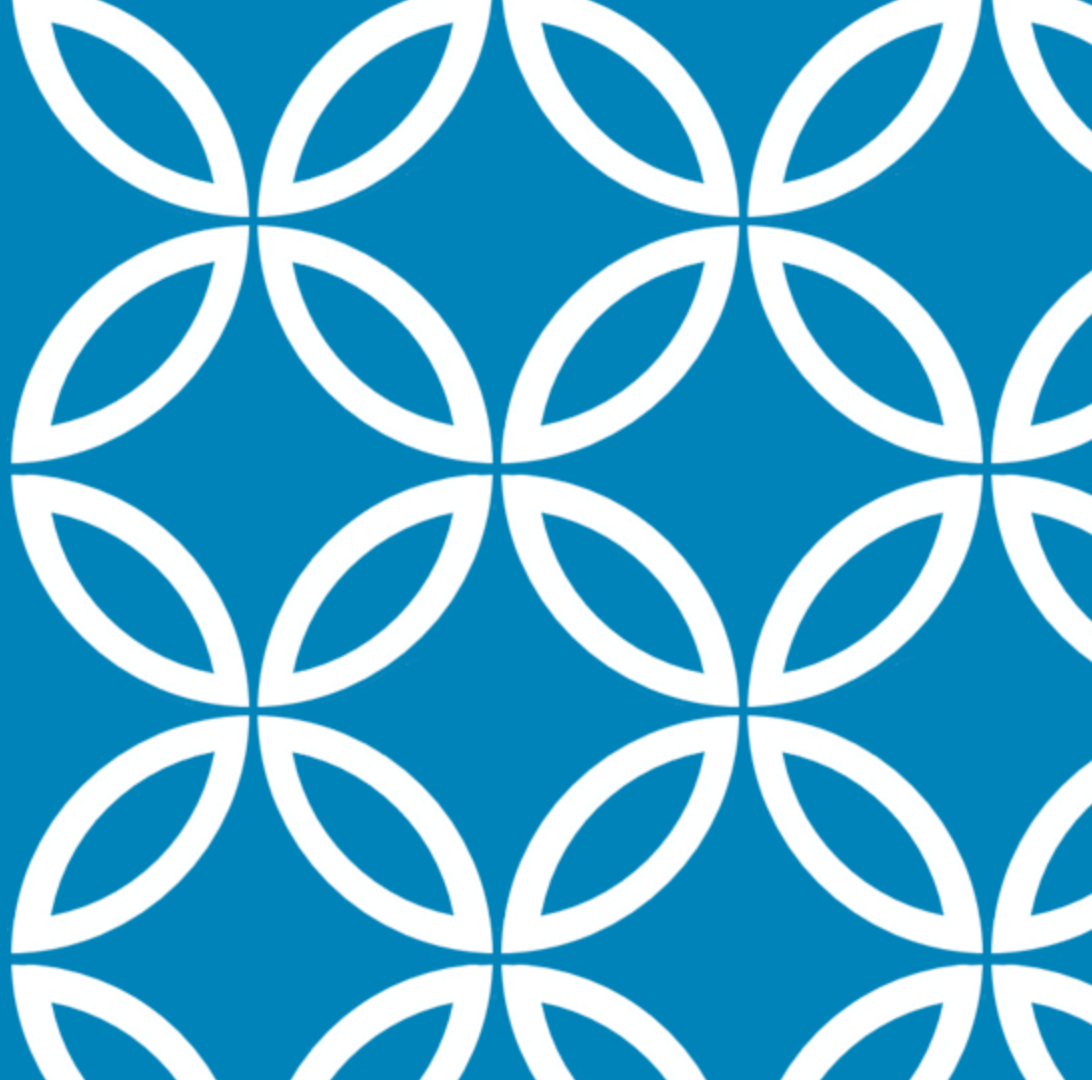


EVALUATION &
MANAGEMENT
DOCUMENTATION
EDUCATION:
AMBULATORY FOCUS

What is in the
RISK
element?



Medical Decision Making (MDM) Elements

2 of 3 of these elements must be met for the given level!

MDM Level	1. Number and complexity of problems addressed	2. Amount/ complexity of data reviewed	3. Risk	As seen in
Straightforward	Straightforward	Minimal	Minimal	New Patient Level 2 - 99202 Established patient level 2 – 99212
Low complexity	Low/uncomplicated	Limited	Low	New Patient Level 3 - 99203 Established patient level 3 – 99213
Moderate complexity	Moderate/complicated	Moderate	Moderate	New Patient Level 4 - 99204 Established patient level 4 - 99214
High complexity	Severe/threat to life or function	Extensive	High	New Patient Level 5 - 99205 Established patient level 5 - 99215

Element 3 of MDM: Risk

MDM Level	3. Highest Risk	As seen in
Straightforward	Minimal	New Patient Level 2 - 99202 Established patient level 2 - 99212
Low complexity	Low	New Patient Level 3 - 99203 Established patient level 3 - 99213
Moderate complexity	Moderate	New Patient Level 4 - 99204 Established patient level 4 - 99214
High complexity	High	New Patient Level 5 - 99205 Established patient level 5 - 99215

Level of Risk	Presenting Problem(s)	Diagnostic Procedure(s)	Management Options
Minimal	1 self-limited/minor problem (i.e. cold, insect bite, tinea corporis)	Labs, ECG, EEG, urinalysis, X-ray, (K), KOH prep	Rest, Gargles, Elastic Bandages, superficial dressing
Low	2 or more self-limited or minor problems. 1 stable chronic illness (e.g. well controlled HTN, non-insulin dependent diabetes, cataract, BPH), acute uncomplicated illness or injury (e.g. cystitis, allergic rhinitis, simple sprain)	ECG, chest x-ray, stress test, non-cardiovascular contrast (e.g. CT scan), requiring sedation	Over-the-counter drugs. Minor surgery w/no identified risk factors. Physical/Occupational Therapy. IV fluids w/o additives
Mod	1 or more chronic illness w/ symptoms (e.g. hypertension, asthma, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, chronic pain, chronic heart failure, chronic lung disease, chronic liver disease, chronic renal failure, chronic neurological disease, chronic sensory loss)	ECG, chest x-ray, stress test, non-cardiovascular contrast (e.g. CT scan), requiring sedation	Minor surgery (open, percutaneous, endoscopic)
High	1 or more chronic illness w/severe exacerbation or progression. Acute or chronic injuries that require hospitalization or bodily fluids, trauma, embolism, distressing illness, or other acute or chronic failure (e.g. seizure, TIA, stroke, sensory loss)	ECG, chest x-ray, stress test, non-cardiovascular contrast (e.g. CT scan), requiring sedation	Discharge with close follow-up. Discharge with close follow-up. Discharge with close follow-up.
The risk of presenting problem is based on the risk related to the disease process anticipated between the present encounter and the next one.		The assessment of risk of selecting diagnostic procedures and mgmt options is based on the risk during & immediately following any procedure or treatment	

** Note, a better grid does not exist. This is why providers will never do this perfectly.

Definition:


- ***Probability and/or nature of consequences when appropriately treated***
- ***Probability and/or nature of consequences related to the decision to initiate or forego testing/treatment/hospitalization***
 - Intersection of how likely ***and*** how serious the consequence
 - Something that is quite likely but with low morbidity can still have moderate or high risk
 - It relates to the *whole* visit
 - Complex interplay of comorbid conditions
 - It's the content of the decision rather than the result
 - You might recommend a treatment course that you don't order but the risk of that decision still applies (maybe even more so)
 - Quantification may be provided when evidence-based medicine has established probabilities

Minimal, Low, Medium and High??

- Per the regulation, apply common language¹ usage meanings to these terms
 - Minimum: A minimum amount, negligible
 - Low: Below average in amount, extent, or intensity; small
 - Medium: About halfway between two extremes of quality; average
 - High: Great or greater than normal in quantity, size or intensity

Risk cheat sheet

- Things to be sure to mention
 - Minimal
 - A condition that is likely to heal itself with reassurance provided (ex. rest, ice, compression, elevation)
 - Low
 - OTC meds are suggested
 - OT/PT
 - Minor procedure without risk factors
 - Moderate
 - Prescription meds
 - Minor procedure with risk factors
 - Major or elective surgery without risk factors
 - → Social determinants of health that limit care plan ←
 - High
 - Drug therapy with intensive monitoring for toxicity
 - Elective surgery with major risk factors
 - Emergency major surgery
 - Hospitalization
 - Decision for DNR or de-escalate care



Explicitly state risk

- ***Clearly articulating clinical perception of risk is a major opportunity!***
- Risk is difficult for coders to score objectively. They are not clinical and, while they are very good at what they do, they are relying on a table that cannot possibly replace the medical complexity a provider perceives