

Medical Coding 205 Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

SAMPLE

- 1. How many Z codes are permitted to be used only as first-listed diagnosis codes?**
 - A. 10**
 - B. 15**
 - C. 20**
 - D. 25**
- 2. What is the function of the sphincters in the digestive system?**
 - A. To aid in nutrient absorption**
 - B. To regulate the passage of food**
 - C. To transport bile**
 - D. To produce digestive enzymes**
- 3. What is the main term and the correct code for nonrheumatic mitral valve prolapse?**
 - A. Prolapse, I50.1**
 - B. Prolapse, I34.1**
 - C. Mitral valve, I10**
 - D. Valve, I49.02**
- 4. Which of the following is a common method for performing a urinalysis?**
 - A. Electrolyte panel**
 - B. Creatinine test**
 - C. Visual and chemical analysis**
 - D. Ultrasound examination**
- 5. What term describes the displacement of a limb, bone, or organ from its customary position?**
 - A. Fracture**
 - B. Dislocation**
 - C. Sprain**
 - D. Injury**

- 6. In the context of E/M coding, what is the primary factor when Dr. Getter spent 40 minutes counseling Nancy about her diabetes?**
- A. Patient history**
 - B. Diagnosis**
 - C. Time**
 - D. Complexity of care**
- 7. When reporting E/M services for a patient in a nursing home, what must the coder determine first?**
- A. Patient's insurance status**
 - B. Initial or subsequent care**
 - C. Type of illness**
 - D. Patient's discharge status**
- 8. What is the name of the genetic mutation that causes white blood cell malfunction leading to increased susceptibility to inflammatory diseases?**
- A. SCID**
 - B. Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome**
 - C. Down Syndrome**
 - D. Cystic Fibrosis**
- 9. What role does the hormone insulin play in the body?**
- A. Increases blood glucose levels**
 - B. Decreases blood glucose levels**
 - C. Stimulates adrenaline production**
 - D. Regulates water retention**
- 10. Which layer of the eye provides the necessary nutrients to the outer layers?**
- A. Retina**
 - B. Choroid**
 - C. Cornea**
 - D. Sclera**

Answers

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1. C
2. B
3. B
4. C
5. B
6. C
7. B
8. B
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

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1. How many Z codes are permitted to be used only as first-listed diagnosis codes?

- A. 10**
- B. 15**
- C. 20**
- D. 25**

Z codes, known as factors influencing health status and contact with health services, serve specific roles in coding. Certain Z codes are designated to be used exclusively as first-listed diagnosis codes; this means they cannot be used as secondary diagnoses. The correct answer indicates that there are a total of 20 Z codes that must be reported as the primary reason for a patient's visit or encounter. These codes are typically related to circumstances like routine health examinations, status of previous conditions, or other health needs not directly tied to a specific illness or injury. Using these codes correctly as first-listed is crucial in ensuring that the focus of the encounter is properly documented. This plays a significant role in reimbursement and data integrity, given that these codes help paint a broad picture of patient care and needs beyond just illness treatment. This understanding of Z codes is essential for effective medical coding practices.

2. What is the function of the sphincters in the digestive system?

- A. To aid in nutrient absorption**
- B. To regulate the passage of food**
- C. To transport bile**
- D. To produce digestive enzymes**

Sphincters in the digestive system primarily serve the crucial function of regulating the passage of food and other digestive contents between different compartments of the digestive tract. These muscular rings act as gatekeepers, opening and closing to allow the controlled movement of food through the esophagus, stomach, intestines, and out of the body. For instance, the lower esophageal sphincter prevents the backflow of stomach contents into the esophagus, while the pyloric sphincter regulates the release of partially digested food from the stomach into the small intestine. Additionally, the anal sphincters control the expulsion of waste, ensuring that this process can occur at an appropriate time. This regulation is essential for proper digestion and absorption of nutrients, as well as preventing issues like reflux or incontinence. Other options relate to different functions; for example, nutrient absorption is mainly handled by the intestines, bile transport involves specific ducts and the liver, and digestive enzymes are produced by glands and organs such as the pancreas.

3. What is the main term and the correct code for nonrheumatic mitral valve prolapse?

- A. Prolapse, I50.1**
- B. Prolapse, I34.1**
- C. Mitral valve, I10**
- D. Valve, I49.02**

The main term for nonrheumatic mitral valve prolapse is "prolapse." The appropriate code for nonrheumatic mitral valve prolapse is I34.1, which specifically denotes "Nonrheumatic mitral valve prolapse." This classification focuses on conditions dealing with the mitral valve that are not associated with rheumatic heart disease, reflecting both the anatomical location and the nature of the condition accurately. Using the correct code is essential for precise medical coding, as it ensures that the medical record accurately describes the patient's condition, facilitating appropriate care and treatment. Codes must correspond to the terminology used in current clinical practice and accepted coding standards. In this case, I34.1 precisely captures the concept of mitral valve prolapse without rheumatic involvement, while the other options do not refer to the correct diagnosis or the specific details of the condition. This distinction is key to maintaining clarity in medical coding and improving patient outcomes.

4. Which of the following is a common method for performing a urinalysis?

- A. Electrolyte panel**
- B. Creatinine test**
- C. Visual and chemical analysis**
- D. Ultrasound examination**

A common method for performing a urinalysis involves visual and chemical analysis. This process includes examining the urine's appearance, color, and clarity while also conducting various chemical tests to assess the presence of substances such as glucose, protein, ketones, and bilirubin. These tests provide valuable information regarding an individual's metabolic and kidney function. The visual analysis helps identify any abnormalities that may indicate infection, dehydration, or other health issues, while the chemical tests can reveal underlying conditions such as diabetes or liver disease. This comprehensive approach makes visual and chemical analysis an essential part of urinalysis, effectively aiding in the diagnosis and monitoring of various medical conditions.

5. What term describes the displacement of a limb, bone, or organ from its customary position?

A. Fracture

B. Dislocation

C. Sprain

D. Injury

The term that describes the displacement of a limb, bone, or organ from its customary position is dislocation. This medical condition occurs when the bones in a joint become misaligned, often due to trauma such as falls or accidents. Dislocations can result in pain, swelling, and impaired function of the affected area. Understanding dislocation is vital in medical coding, as it has specific codes that reflect the type and severity of the dislocation, as well as the treatment required. In contrast to dislocation, a fracture refers to a break in the bone, while a sprain involves the stretching or tearing of ligaments around a joint. The term injury is a broader classification that could encompass a variety of trauma, including fractures, dislocations, and sprains, but does not specifically define the type of displacement associated with dislocation. This specificity in terminology is critical in medical coding for accurate documentation and billing.

6. In the context of E/M coding, what is the primary factor when Dr. Getter spent 40 minutes counseling Nancy about her diabetes?

A. Patient history

B. Diagnosis

C. Time

D. Complexity of care

In the context of Evaluation and Management (E/M) coding, the primary factor influencing the coding when a physician spends a significant amount of time counseling a patient is indeed the time spent on the counseling session. When a clinician dedicates a specific duration, such as 40 minutes, to counseling a patient about managing a condition like diabetes, this time becomes crucial for coding purposes. In E/M coding, time can determine the level of service provided, particularly when counseling and coordination of care make up more than 50% of the encounter. This means that documentation should clearly reflect that the majority of the visit focused on discussion and management of the patient's condition. Ensuring accurate coding based on time spent is essential in reflecting the complexity and intensity of care that was provided during that encounter. While patient history, diagnosis, and complexity of care are also important elements in the overall assessment of an encounter, in scenarios where counseling dominates the visit, time is the primary factor for coding. This aligns with the guidelines that allow time to be the determining factor in certain E/M services, particularly when it directly relates to patient education and management strategies.

7. When reporting E/M services for a patient in a nursing home, what must the coder determine first?

- A. Patient's insurance status**
- B. Initial or subsequent care**
- C. Type of illness**
- D. Patient's discharge status**

When reporting Evaluation and Management (E/M) services for a patient in a nursing home, the coder must first determine whether the care being provided is classified as initial or subsequent care. This distinction is crucial because it affects the coding and reimbursement process. Initial care typically refers to the patient's first encounter with the healthcare provider in a specific setting, which requires a comprehensive evaluation and usually mandates more detailed documentation. Subsequent care refers to follow-up visits where the provider continues to manage the patient's care already initiated during the initial visit. Each of these categories has different coding guidelines and requirements, influencing the level of complexity, time spent, and documentation needed. Understanding whether the care is initial or subsequent allows the coder to select the appropriate code that accurately reflects the services rendered and ensures compliance with coding standards set forth by the American Medical Association (AMA) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This step is foundational for accurate coding before considering other factors such as the patient's insurance status, type of illness, or discharge status.

8. What is the name of the genetic mutation that causes white blood cell malfunction leading to increased susceptibility to inflammatory diseases?

- A. SCID**
- B. Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome**
- C. Down Syndrome**
- D. Cystic Fibrosis**

Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome is the correct answer because it is a genetic disorder that impacts the immune system, specifically affecting the function of white blood cells. This syndrome is characterized by eczema, combined immune deficiency, and a tendency to develop bleeding due to low platelet counts. The malfunction of white blood cells in individuals with Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome leads to an inability to effectively combat infections and increased susceptibility to inflammatory diseases. Other choices represent different conditions that do not primarily center on white blood cell malfunction related to inflammatory diseases. Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) is another immune deficiency, but it does not specifically link to inflammatory diseases the way Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome does. Down Syndrome is a genetic condition typically associated with developmental delays and does not primarily affect immune response in this manner. Cystic Fibrosis is a genetic disorder that primarily affects the respiratory and digestive systems rather than white blood cell function. Thus, the characteristics and implications of Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome clearly align it as the chosen response.

9. What role does the hormone insulin play in the body?

- A. Increases blood glucose levels**
- B. Decreases blood glucose levels**
- C. Stimulates adrenaline production**
- D. Regulates water retention**

Insulin is a crucial hormone produced by the pancreas that plays a significant role in the regulation of blood glucose levels. Its primary function is to help lower blood glucose levels after meals. When we consume food, carbohydrates are broken down into glucose, which enters the bloodstream. In response to rising glucose levels, the pancreas secretes insulin. Insulin facilitates the uptake of glucose into cells, where it can be used for energy or stored for future use. This process not only reduces the concentration of glucose in the blood but also helps to maintain homeostasis, which is essential for overall health. In contrast, other hormones involved in glucose metabolism, such as glucagon, work to increase blood glucose levels, while insulin does the opposite. Therefore, the correct understanding of insulin's role is that it decreases blood glucose levels after meals, supporting metabolic balance in the body.

10. Which layer of the eye provides the necessary nutrients to the outer layers?

- A. Retina**
- B. Choroid**
- C. Cornea**
- D. Sclera**

The choroid is the layer of the eye that provides essential nutrients to the outer layers, particularly the retina. It is situated between the retina and the sclera and is richly vascularized, meaning it contains a large network of blood vessels. This vascular supply is crucial because it delivers oxygen and nutrients necessary for the health and function of the retinal cells, which are vital for vision. The choroid also helps absorb excess light, preventing scattering within the eye, which further aids visual clarity. In this context, the other layers do not have the same role. The retina is responsible for processing visual information, while the cornea functions to refract light to help focus images. The sclera provides structural support and protection but does not have the vascular characteristics needed to nourish the retina. Thus, the choroid is specifically designed to fulfill the vital function of nutrient supply to the outer layers of the eye.