

Nationally Registered Certified Coding Specialist (NRCCS) Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Questions

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- 1. Which of the following is classified as a special sense?**
 - A. Touch**
 - B. Vision**
 - C. Balance**
 - D. Temperature**
- 2. Chapter X of ICD-10-CM focuses on which type of diseases?**
 - A. Diseases of the digestive system**
 - B. Diseases of the ear and mastoid process**
 - C. Diseases of the respiratory system**
 - D. Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases**
- 3. Which chapter of ICD-10-CM is focused on external causes of morbidity and mortality?**
 - A. Chapter XIX**
 - B. Chapter XX**
 - C. Chapter XXI**
 - D. Chapter XVI**
- 4. A situation in which harm occurs due to a failure to act when there was a duty to do so is known as?**
 - A. Nonfeasance**
 - B. Malpractice**
 - C. Misfeasance**
 - D. Respondeat superior**
- 5. Who is a person that makes decisions regarding medical care on a patient's behalf if the patient is unable to do so?**
 - A. Guardian**
 - B. Health Proxy**
 - C. Durable Power of Attorney**
 - D. Medical Advisor**

- 6. Which hormone produced by the pancreas helps to lower blood sugar levels?**
- A. Glucagon**
 - B. Cortisol**
 - C. Adrenaline**
 - D. Insulin**
- 7. What is a correct example of using 'S' as a 7th character in an ICD-10 code?**
- A. To indicate an initial encounter**
 - B. To indicate a sequela**
 - C. To indicate a subsequent encounter**
 - D. To indicate a new diagnosis**
- 8. What term refers to a lawful act that is done incorrectly?**
- A. Misfeasance**
 - B. Malfeasance**
 - C. Negligence**
 - D. Liability**
- 9. What does the abbreviation SQ refer to in medical contexts?**
- A. Intravenous**
 - B. Subcutaneous**
 - C. Oral**
 - D. Topical**
- 10. What is the abbreviation for a hemoglobin blood test?**
- A. hgb**
 - B. hGB**
 - C. Hb**
 - D. HGL**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following is classified as a special sense?

- A. Touch**
- B. Vision**
- C. Balance**
- D. Temperature**

Vision is classified as a special sense because it involves specific sensory organs and pathways dedicated to processing visual information. Special senses are those that have specialized receptors and are associated with specific organs; in the case of vision, the eyes contain photoreceptors that detect light and allow for the perception of images. The other options, while important sensory functions, fall under general senses or other classifications. Touch involves the skin and various receptors throughout the body, balance primarily relates to the inner ear's function reflecting a sense of equilibrium, and temperature perception is mediated by thermoreceptors that are distributed throughout the body. These are not considered special senses because they do not rely on distinct organs dedicated to a singular sensory function like the eye does for vision. Understanding that special senses are closely tied to specific organs and the unique types of receptors they house helps clarify the distinction and confirms why vision is the correct answer in this context.

2. Chapter X of ICD-10-CM focuses on which type of diseases?

- A. Diseases of the digestive system**
- B. Diseases of the ear and mastoid process**
- C. Diseases of the respiratory system**
- D. Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases**

Chapter X of ICD-10-CM pertains specifically to diseases of the respiratory system. This chapter categorizes various respiratory conditions and illnesses, enabling coding professionals to accurately identify and categorize diseases such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), pneumonia, and other respiratory infections. Understanding this classification is crucial for accurate documentation, billing, and for researchers analyzing health trends related to respiratory illnesses. Each chapter in the ICD-10-CM provides a systematic way to classify diseases, and Chapter X focuses on the anatomy and common pathologies associated with the respiratory system. This specificity aids healthcare providers in diagnosing and treating conditions effectively. The other chapters focus on different areas of health. For instance, the chapter on diseases of the digestive system deals with conditions affecting the gastrointestinal tract, while the chapter concerning endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases addresses disorders such as diabetes and thyroid problems. The chapter on diseases of the ear and mastoid process centers on auditory and balance issues. Therefore, comprehending the structure of the ICD-10-CM is essential for coding accuracy and relevant health care practices.

3. Which chapter of ICD-10-CM is focused on external causes of morbidity and mortality?

- A. Chapter XIX**
- B. Chapter XX**
- C. Chapter XXI**
- D. Chapter XVI**

The focus of the correct answer pertains to Chapter XX of ICD-10-CM, which specifically addresses external causes of morbidity and mortality. This chapter serves to capture data about the circumstances that led to injuries, poisonings, and other adverse effects, significantly improving the understanding of public health issues. It includes codes that allow health care providers to assess certain events, such as accidents or assaults, and their contribution to hospital visits or mortality. This information plays a crucial role in health statistics and helps inform public health policies by identifying trends in injuries and their causes. The inclusion of this chapter indicates a recognition of the importance of external factors in health outcomes, supporting efforts to improve safety and prevent accidents. Other chapters mentioned do not specifically categorize external causes. Chapter XIX covers injury and poisoning more broadly but does not specifically delineate external causes as Chapter XX does. Chapter XXI typically deals with factors influencing health status and contact with health services, while Chapter XVI focuses on specific conditions and diseases rather than their external causes. Thus, Chapter XX is the appropriate choice for addressing external causes of morbidity and mortality.

4. A situation in which harm occurs due to a failure to act when there was a duty to do so is known as?

- A. Nonfeasance**
- B. Malpractice**
- C. Misfeasance**
- D. Respondeat superior**

The situation described—where harm occurs because a person fails to act when there was a duty to do so—is indeed referred to as nonfeasance. Nonfeasance represents a lack of action, signifying a failure to perform an act that one is obligated to carry out, and this can lead to negative consequences for others. For instance, if a healthcare provider neglects to provide necessary care that leads to patient harm, that scenario exemplifies nonfeasance. Understanding nonfeasance is critical for health care professionals, as it helps clarify their responsibilities and the legal implications of their inaction in various circumstances. This concept is particularly relevant in legal discussions regarding negligence where obligation and the expectation of care are established but unmet. The other terms reflect different aspects of liability or duty. Malpractice involves an improper or negligent act performed by a professional, usually resulting in harm; misfeasance refers to the improper execution of a lawful act; and respondeat superior is a legal doctrine holding an employer responsible for the negligent acts of employees performed in the course of their employment. Each of these terms serves a distinct purpose in legal and ethical discussions but does not specifically address the failure to act in the way that nonfeasance does.

5. Who is a person that makes decisions regarding medical care on a patient's behalf if the patient is unable to do so?

A. Guardian

B. Health Proxy

C. Durable Power of Attorney

D. Medical Advisor

The correct answer is a Durable Power of Attorney. This designation allows an individual to make medical decisions on behalf of another person when they are unable to do so themselves. The Durable Power of Attorney for healthcare specifically grants authority to manage health-related decisions, ensuring that the individual's medical care follows their preferences and values even when they cannot communicate them directly. This role is particularly important in situations such as severe illness, unconsciousness, or cognitive impairment, where the patient may not be in a position to express their wishes. The document must be formally created and typically requires the signature of the individual granting the authority, making it a legal instrument recognized by healthcare providers. While a health proxy and guardian also fulfill similar roles in making decisions for incapacitated patients, these terms usually pertain to specific legal frameworks or relationships. A health proxy is often designated for healthcare decisions but may not carry the same legal weight or formalities as a Durable Power of Attorney. A guardian is generally appointed by a court to make decisions for someone deemed incompetent and works within a different legal context. Medical advisor is a more ambiguous term that does not specifically imply decision-making power on behalf of a patient.

6. Which hormone produced by the pancreas helps to lower blood sugar levels?

A. Glucagon

B. Cortisol

C. Adrenaline

D. Insulin

Insulin is the hormone produced by the pancreas that plays a crucial role in regulating blood sugar levels. It is released primarily in response to elevated blood glucose levels, such as after eating a meal. Insulin facilitates the uptake of glucose by the body's cells, particularly in muscle and fat tissues, allowing them to use glucose for energy or store it as glycogen for future use. This action effectively lowers the concentration of glucose in the bloodstream, helping to maintain it within a healthy range. In contrast, glucagon, another hormone produced by the pancreas, works to increase blood sugar levels by promoting the conversion of glycogen to glucose in the liver. Cortisol and adrenaline, hormones produced by the adrenal glands, also influence glucose metabolism but do so in ways that typically increase blood sugar levels in response to stress or energy demands. Understanding these hormonal functions is essential for effective management and treatment of conditions such as diabetes, where insulin regulation is key to controlling blood sugar.

7. What is a correct example of using 'S' as a 7th character in an ICD-10 code?

- A. To indicate an initial encounter**
- B. To indicate a sequela**
- C. To indicate a subsequent encounter**
- D. To indicate a new diagnosis**

The use of 'S' as a 7th character in an ICD-10 code is specifically designated to indicate a sequela, which refers to a condition that is a consequence or result of a previous injury or illness. In the context of the ICD-10 coding system, sequelae are typically long-term effects that can result from an initial condition or event. This could include complications that arise well after the initial diagnosis or treatment. For example, if a patient has a stroke and subsequently develops paralysis, the paralysis would be considered a sequela of the stroke. Correctly coding this condition is crucial for accurately representing the patient's medical history and for ensuring proper reimbursement and care planning. Other options do not correctly reflect the role of 'S' as a 7th character. The initial encounter is indicated with the letter 'A,' while the letter 'D' represents a subsequent encounter. The concept of a new diagnosis does not align with the existing ICD-10 character structure, which focuses on encounters and outcomes connected to existing medical events.

8. What term refers to a lawful act that is done incorrectly?

- A. Misfeasance**
- B. Malfeasance**
- C. Negligence**
- D. Liability**

The term that best refers to a lawful act that is done incorrectly is misfeasance. This concept is typically used in legal and medical contexts to describe a situation where a person performs a legal act but does so in a negligent or improper manner, leading to harm or damages. For example, a healthcare provider may administer medication that is appropriate for a patient, but if they do so in the wrong dosage or in an unsafe way, that would be classified as misfeasance. The key aspect here is that the initial act was legal; it was the manner in which it was performed that was improper. Understanding misfeasance is crucial for professionals, especially in areas like healthcare and law, as it highlights the responsibility of individuals to perform their duties correctly, even when they are legal in nature. During your studies, you may encounter case studies and scenarios which illustrate misfeasance, further emphasizing its importance in ensuring proper conduct in legal and healthcare practices.

9. What does the abbreviation SQ refer to in medical contexts?

- A. Intravenous**
- B. Subcutaneous**
- C. Oral**
- D. Topical**

The abbreviation SQ stands for subcutaneous, which refers to the administration of medication or vaccines into the fatty tissue layer beneath the skin. This method allows for slower absorption of the medication into the bloodstream compared to other routes such as intravenous or intramuscular. Subcutaneous injections are commonly used for insulin delivery in diabetes management, certain vaccines, and medications that require consistent absorption. This technique is particularly useful for patients who require ongoing therapy outside of clinical settings because it allows self-administration. Understanding this term is vital for effective communication in medical settings and for providing accurate coding and documentation regarding medication administration. In contrast, the other options—intravenous, oral, and topical—refer to different routes of administration and would not be represented by the SQ abbreviation.

10. What is the abbreviation for a hemoglobin blood test?

- A. hgb**
- B. hGB**
- C. Hb**
- D. HGL**

The abbreviation for a hemoglobin blood test is commonly represented as "hgb." This designation is widely used in medical laboratory contexts to streamline communication among healthcare professionals. "Hgb" is derived from the term hemoglobin, which is the protein in red blood cells responsible for transporting oxygen throughout the body. Laboratories utilize this abbreviation in test results and reports, making it a recognized shorthand in clinical settings. While "Hb" is also a valid abbreviation for hemoglobin and is used quite frequently in various contexts, "hgb" is more commonly used in laboratory ordering and reporting for consistency and clarity. The other options, such as "hGB" and "HGL," do not represent standard abbreviations associated with hemoglobin tests, making "hgb" the most appropriate choice for this particular inquiry.