

General Clinical Documentation Guidelines

This guideline has been developed to provide guidance on the clinical documentation specificity that is required to support the accurate documentation of all relevant clinical conditions required for accurate clinical coding. All conditions that are pre-existing, temporary, transient, newly arising and unexpected are to be documented if requiring monitoring, evaluation or treatment including medication and medication changes.

Alcohol use	State whether harmful use/abuse, dependence, withdrawal
Anaemia	State acute/chronic/acute on chronic Specify if due to blood loss, chronic, acute Specify type, for eg iron deficiency, haemolytic
Ascites	Specify if malignant
Cardiomyopathy	Specify type, eg dilated, hypertrophic
Chest pain	Specify if angina – stable/unstable, pleuritic, musculoskeletal
COPD	Specify cause Specify if 'due to', 'complication of'
Complications	'Resulting from', or 'secondary to' operative procedure
CVA	Specify residual deficits, eg hemiplegia, dysphagia, aphasia
Diabetes	Specify Type 1 or Type 2, steroid induced Specify all systemic manifestations, eg nephropathy, peripheral/autonomic neuropathy, retinopathy State other complications such as 'diabetic foot' or foot ulcer, poorly controlled, with features of insulin resistance
Electrolyte disturbances	Specify, eg hypokalaemia, hyperkalaemia, hyponatraemia, hypernatremia
Gastrointestinal conditions	State if with haemorrhage or obstruction
Head injury	Specify precise injury, eg occipital fracture, focal cerebral haematoma, diffuse cerebellar contusion Specify duration of LOC
Hepatitis	Specify type, eg viral, alcoholic If viral, specify type, eg B, C Also specify stage, eg acute, chronic, carrier
Infection	Specify site, organism, drug resistance
Injury	Specify type of injury eg open wound, contusion, abrasion Open wounds specify involvement of blood vessels, tendons, nerves Specify cause if known

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Acute/Chronic Kidney Disease	Document the stage of CKD – Stage 1 – 5 Document any underlying cause of CKD such as Diabetes or Hypertension Document if the patient is dialysis dependent
Malignancy	Specify histological type Specify exact sites or parts or organ affected, for eg bladder wall Specify metastatic spread
Melena	Specify cause if known
Pancytopenia	Specify components, eg anaemia, thrombocytopenia, neutropenia Identify which component is being treated, eg transfusion for anaemia
Pancreatitis	Specify acute/chronic/acute on chronic Specify cause, eg alcohol, drugs, biliary
PR bleeding	Specify the cause/origin of bleeding
Pleural effusion	Specify if malignant or not malignant
Postoperative complications/events	If complication/event is treated or affects patient management specify if the condition resulted from the procedure. For eg establish causal link.
Pressure Injury	Specify Stage 1 – 2- 3 -4 and specify site
Respiratory failure	Specify acute, chronic or acute on chronic
Sepsis/Septicaemia	Specify SIRS, septic shock, severe sepsis Specify organism if known and whether it is drug resistant to (...)
Stroke	Specify whether causing infarction and type of infarction, eg due to occlusion/stenosis, thrombosis, embolic, haemorrhagic Specify residual deficient, eg hemiplegia , dysphagia, aphasia
Surgical procedure	Document the condition for which intervention is being performed
Tobacco use	State whether harmful use/abuse, dependence, withdrawal
Ulcer, gastrointestinal	Specify acute or chronic Specify if bleeding/haemorrhage Specify if with perforation or obstruction