

CPC

Documentation first. Convention second. Code last.

01 Outpatient uncertainty stays uncertain

Do not turn an outpatient “suspected” or “rule out” diagnosis into a confirmed diagnosis. Report the highest certainty established for that encounter.¹

That may mean a symptom, sign, abnormal test result, or other visit reason. The inpatient uncertain-diagnosis convention does not carry over automatically.¹

02 Read which Excludes note applies

Excludes1 generally prevents the two codes together; unrelated conditions are an exception. Query the provider when their relationship is unclear.¹

Excludes2 allows both codes when appropriate because the excluded condition is not included in that code. The notes do not mean the same thing.¹

Keep going with the full quick sheet.

6 more focused sections: Index -> Tabular -> complete code / Other is not unspecified / A second code may have an order / An allowed modifier still needs a reason / Modifier 25: separate E/M work / Choose the family and primary service.

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Selective study prompts - not a codebook. Match the code year, care setting, payer rules, and full coding instructions.

SOURCES - CLICK A LABEL TO CHECK THE ORIGINAL

1. ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and...

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