

Module 3 Guidelines Part 3

Guidelines from chapter 5 for dementia indicate which is false for a coder when coding this diagnosis:

- selection of the severity level is based upon the provider's judgement.
- only the highest severity level is assigned if dementia levels progress while a patient is inpatient.
- a coder cannot assign "unspecified" in any encounter.
- severity levels could include mild or severe, among others.

Guidelines from Chapter 6 indicate if a patient is monoplegic and the provider indicates the left side is affected but not if the patient is left-handed dominant or right, a coder would

- choose a monoplegic diagnosis code for non-dominant.
- query the provider to determine if the patient is left- or right-handed.
- choose an unspecified monoplegic diagnosis code.
- choose a monoplegic diagnosis code for dominant.

Continuing with our left-side affected monoplegic example: our patient has monoplegia of the left arm. The provider did not indicate if the patient is right-hand or left-hand dominant. The coder would first use which term to look up this encounter in the alphabetic index?