

Acute Conditions Not Usually Treated in an Office Setting

Although patients occasionally present to the physician's office with life threatening conditions, in general patients are treated in a hospital setting. Remember that historical ("history of") conditions are not coded as if the patient has the condition currently. Physicians also cannot code "rule out" conditions.

Sepsis/Septicemia 038.XX

Similar to all of the examples above, Sepsis/Septicemia is often submitted when a history of the condition is really meant. Once the infection has resolved, the condition should no longer be coded. As with the other conditions noted, it is unlikely that the patient would be treated outpatient for this condition. To indicate a personal history of Sepsis/Septicemia, use V12.00 (personal history of infectious or parasitic disease NOS), V12.09 (personal history of specified infectious disease, NEC) or V12.04 (personal history of methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus septicemia) as applicable.