

Levels of Medical Decision Making (MDM)

Level of MDM <i>(Based on 2 out of 3 elements of MDM)</i>	Number and Complexity of Problems Addressed at the Encounter (CoPA)	Amount and/or Complexity of Data to be Reviewed and Analyzed (DATA) <i>*Each unique test, order, or document contributes to the combination of 2 or combination of 3 in Category 1 below.</i>	Risk of Complications and/or Morbidity or Mortality of Patient Management (RISK)
Straightforward	Minimal • 1 self-limited or minor problem	Minimal or none	Minimal risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment
Low	Low • 2 or more self-limited or minor problems; <i>or</i> • 1 stable, chronic illness; <i>or</i> • 1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury; <i>or</i> • 1 stable, acute illness; <i>or</i> • 1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury requiring hospital inpatient or observation level of care	Limited <i>(Must meet the requirements of at least 1 out of 2 categories)</i> Category 1: Tests and documents <i>Any combination of 2 from the following:</i> • Review of prior external note(s) from each unique source*; • Review of the result(s) of each unique test*; • Ordering of each unique test* <i>or</i> Category 2: Assessment requiring an independent historian(s) <i>(For the categories of independent interpretation of tests and discussion of management or test interpretation, see moderate or high)</i>	Low risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment
Moderate	Moderate • 1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; <i>or</i> • 2 or more stable, chronic illnesses; <i>or</i> • 1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain prognosis; <i>or</i> • 1 acute illness with systemic symptoms; <i>or</i> • 1 acute, complicated injury	Moderate <i>(Must meet the requirements of at least 1 out of 3 categories)</i> Category 1: Tests, documents, or independent historian(s) <i>Any combination of 3 from the following:</i> • Review of prior external note(s) from each unique source*; • Review of the result(s) of each unique test*; • Ordering of each unique test* • Assessment requiring an independent historian(s) <i>or</i> Category 2: Independent interpretation of tests • Independent interpretation of a test performed by another physician/other qualified health care professional <i>(not separately reported)</i> ; <i>or</i> Category 3: Discussion of management or test interpretation • Discussion of management or test interpretation with external physician/other qualified health care professional/appropriate source <i>(not separately reported)</i>	Moderate risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment <i>Examples only:</i> • Prescription drug management • Decision regarding minor surgery with identified patient or procedure risk factors • Decision regarding elective major surgery without identified patient or procedure risk factors • Diagnosis or treatment significantly limited by social determinants of health
High	High • 1 or more chronic illnesses with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment; <i>or</i> • 1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function <i>or</i> • Multiple morbidities requiring intensive management <i>(Initial Nursing Facility only)</i>	Extensive <i>(Must meet the requirements of at least 2 out of 3 categories)</i> Category 1: Tests, documents, or independent historian(s) <i>Any combination of 3 from the following:</i> • Review of prior external note(s) from each unique source*; • Review of the result(s) of each unique test*; • Ordering of each unique test* • Assessment requiring an independent historian(s) <i>or</i> Category 2: Independent interpretation of tests • Independent interpretation of a test performed by another physician/other qualified health care professional <i>(not separately reported)</i> ; <i>or</i> Category 3: Discussion of management or test interpretation • Discussion of management or test interpretation with external physician/other qualified health care professional/appropriate source <i>(not separately reported)</i>	High risk of morbidity from additional diagnostic testing or treatment <i>Examples only:</i> • Drug therapy requiring intensive monitoring for toxicity • Decision regarding elective major surgery with identified patient or procedure risk factors • Decision regarding emergency major surgery • Decision regarding hospitalization or escalation of hospital-level care • Decision not to resuscitate or to de-escalate care because of poor prognosis • Parenteral controlled substances