

the Coding Talk...

To Code or Not To Code

Diagnosis of the Month... Encephalopathy

**In order to capture the severity of the illness and risk of mortality
document the following in the medical record:**

- Acuity (Acute, Chronic, Acute on Chronic)
- Specification of the type For example (Most common)
 - Metabolic
 - Toxic
 - Toxic Metabolic
 - Septic
 - Hepatic
 - Hypertensive
 - Hypoxic/Anoxic
 - Alcoholic



**Clinical Indicators must be evident in the medical record
to support the diagnosis of encephalopathy.**

Document any presence of the following:

- Progressive memory loss
- Loss of cognitive ability
- Difficulties with concentration
- Change in baseline mental status

