

UBMD Internal Medicine

Clinical Documentation Example New Outpatient Visit-99203

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Regulations

- The following information is provided to you in accordance with the Center for Medicare/Medicaid Service (CMS) 1997 Guidelines for Evaluation & Management Services.
- This information may be used as a reference.
- Questions regarding the regulations or their interpretation should be sent to the Pat Kiesel-Neunder @pkiesel@buffalo.edu

Purpose

- It is our intention to provide you with clinical examples of documentation that support Evaluation & Management codes.

New Outpatient visit-99203

History – Detailed

HPI – Patient states she began having increased nasal congestion about 3 weeks ago. She states the problem is quite severe and is worse when she goes outside, congestion associated with watery eyes and can last for several hours. Concerned she may be developing seasonal allergies.

Meds – HCTZ 12.5 mg po qd

PMH – positive for hypertension

ROS – ENMT – negative for epistaxis, sore throat or decreased hearing. Pulmonary – negative for cough, hemoptysis, SOB.

99203 – Exam – Detailed

- Exam

General – NAD conversant, 130/72, 88, 98.6

Lungs – CTA, nml effort

CV – RRR, no peripheral edema

Neck- supply without lymphadenopathy, no thyromegaly

ENT – nml nasal mucosa/septum/tubinales, no mucosal ulceration, nml palate

Skin – no visible rashes, warm

99203 – Medical Decision Making Low

- **Assessment** – Possible allergic rhinitis in a patient with optimally controlled HTN
- **Plan** –
 - OTC acetaminophen and diphenhydramine
 - Saline nasal flushes
 - Patient was instructed to avoid decongestants with phenylpropanolamine due to the risk of exacerbating her HTN

99203 Documentation Analysis

(all 3 key components must be met or exceeded)

- **History** –the history is detailed. It has 4 HPI elements, ROS – 2 systems reviewed and past medical history was reviewed
- **Exam** – The exam is detailed – 6 organ systems with 2 bullets in each
- **Medical Decision Making** – Low Complexity Medical Decision Making. 1 new problem with no additional workup which was an acute uncomplicated illness with OTC drugs.

Coding Tip -99203

- A new patient is someone who has not been seen within the past 3 years
- **99203 requires –**
 - Detailed **history**
 - Detailed **exam**
 - Low **medical decision making**
- If the patient was given prescription drugs, the **medical decision making** would be Moderate. Before you change the new patient code to 99204, remember that a comprehensive history and exam are required for 99204.