

# Dermatology Coding Alert

## Aspects of PFSH

Per CPT®, past medical, family and/or social history is divided into three subsections.

**1. Past medical history** includes the patient's experience with illnesses, operations, injuries, and treatments, says **Leah Gross, CPC**, coding lead at a practice in St. Paul, Minn., including:

- prior major illnesses and injuries
- prior operations
- prior hospitalizations
- current medications
- allergies
- age-appropriate immunization status
- age-appropriate feeding/dietary status.

Examples: "Patient has spina bifida; patient had a kidney stone episode 12 years ago; patient is allergic to penicillin; patient had a thyroidectomy in 2009."

2. Family history includes a review of health-related events in the patient's family, including:

- health status or cause of death of parents, siblings, and children
- specific diseases related to problems identified in the chief complaint or history of the present illness, and/or system review
- diseases of family members that may be hereditary or place the patient at risk.

Examples: "Both siblings have schizophrenia; mother died at 55 of breast cancer; father has COPD."

3. Social history covers past and current activities related to:

- marital status and/or living arrangements
- current employment
- occupational history
- use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco
- level of education
- sexual history
- other relevant social factors
- activities that include sun and/or chemical exposure.

Examples: "Patient is an avid golfer; patient grew up on a farm drinking well water; patient is a smoker; patient attends daycare; patient lives in a group home."