

## Internal Medicine Coding Alert

### YOU BE THE CODER ~ ICD-9 Coding for Patients Who Exhibit Depressive Symptoms

**Question:** What ICD-9 codes should I use when a patient exhibits signs of depression, but the physician does not diagnose depression? The physician recently performed a level-two evaluation and management service on a new patient whose husband just died. She had insomnia and was not eating much, but the physician did not think the patient met the parameters for depressive disorder.

Minnesota Subscriber

**Answer:** In the absence of a definitive depression diagnosis from the doctor, you'll want the diagnosis coding to reflect the patient's signs and symptoms. On your claim,

- report 99202 (Office or other outpatient visit for the evaluation and management of a new patient, which requires these three key components: an expanded problem-focused history; an expanded problem-focused examination; straightforward medical decision-making) for the E/M service.
- link 307.42 (Persistent disorder of initiating or maintaining sleep) to 99202 to represent the patient's insomnia.
- link 783.0 (Anorexia) to 99202 to represent the patient's appetite loss.