

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Reader Question: Understand Comprehensive History Requirement Basics

Question: If I have a chief complaint, an extended history of present illness (HPI), a problem-pertinent review of systems (ROS), and a complete past, family, and social history (PFSH), do I have enough for a comprehensive history?

Ohio Subscriber

Answer: For a comprehensive history, you need to meet or exceed the following four elements: a chief complaint, an extended HPI, a complete ROS, and a complete PFSH. Your scenario matches three of those elements (chief complaint, extended HPI, and complete PFSH), but the problem-pertinent ROS you have documented is lower than the complete ROS needed to justify a comprehensive history.

The problem-pertinent ROS element only meets the level required for an expanded problem focused history (which requires a chief complaint and a brief HPI in addition). This means the elements you have are only enough for an expanded problem focused history.