

Eli's Rehab Report

Quiz Time: Take the Stroke Coding Challenge

See how you fare when it comes to choosing a principal diagnosis code

Think you've got stroke coding down pat? Take this quiz to find out whether you know your embolisms from your hemorrhages.

Question 1

A 71-year-old patient has a stroke in the right middle cerebral artery due to an embolus from a stenotic carotid artery plaque. What is the principal diagnosis?

- A. 433.10 - Carotid artery stenosis without mention of cerebral infarction
- B. 434.10 - Cerebral embolism without mention of cerebral infarction
- C. 434.11 - Cerebral embolism with cerebral infarction

Question 2

A patient has a right hemispheric hemorrhage with clinically stable left-sided weakness. Which term describes this patient's condition?

- A. stroke
- B. cerebral infarction
- C. reversible ischemic neurological event
- D. stroke in evolution

Question 3

The physician admits a patient with an intracerebral hemorrhage due to therapeutic doses of warfarin. The doctor treats the patient with observation, fresh frozen plasma, and vitamin K. What is the principal diagnosis?

- A. 431 - Cerebral hemorrhage
- B. 436 - Stroke
- C. 997.02 - Iatrogenic cerebrovascular infarction or hemorrhage
- D. 790.92 - Abnormal coagulation profile

Question 4

A patient is being treated by a physiatrist for hemiplegia of the dominate side following a CVA. What is the principal diagnosis?

- A. 342.91 - Hemiplegia, unspecified, affecting dominate side
- B. 436 - Acute, but ill-defined, cerebrovascular disease
- C. 434.91 - Cerebral artery occlusion, unspecified, with cerebral infarction
- D. 438.22 - Hemiplegia affecting nondominant side

Answers

1. C 2. A 3. A 4. D

Answers 1-3 provided by **James Kennedy, MD, CCS**, vice president of VP-MA Health Solutions Inc. in Nashville, Tenn.