

Eli's Rehab Report

Reader Question: Report V15.81 for Drug Noncompliance

Question: We performed a nine-panel drug screen on a patient with a brain injury because the physiatrist believed that the patient wasn't taking his medication correctly. Which ICD-9 code should we report for this?

Georgia Subscriber

Answer: You should report V15.81 (Noncompliance with medical treatment) if you are certain that the patient failed to take his prescribed medications. If you merely suspect that the patient took his medication incorrectly, you should report the ICD-9 code for the patient's symptoms. For example, if the patient complained of dizziness and a lack of coordination, you should report 780.4 (Dizziness and giddiness) and 781.3 (Lack of coordination).