

DOCUMENTATION REFERENCE CARD

DEMENTIA

Documentation Considerations

- Record evidence of declining basic/instrumental activities of daily living:
 - Impaired judgment/language/memory
 - Disorientation to time and/or place
 - Declining in capabilities and routine activities of daily living
 - Change in personality or expression of feelings
 - Safety issues
 - Job performance/other influences (drug/alcohol abuse)
- Avoid contradictory documentation such as Cognitive Impairment or Chronic Memory Loss

Diagnosis Considerations

- Document diagnosis and its severity
 - Mild, Moderate, or Severe
 - Acute Psychosis on Chronic Dementia
 - Sundowning with Dementia
 - Metabolic Encephalopathy
- Document associated Mood Disorders
- Indicate if mental status is consistent with patient's baseline or an acute condition
- Document associated behavioral disturbances such as:
 - Agitation including
 - Aberrant motor behaviors
 - Verbal aggression
 - Physical behaviors

Additional Considerations

- Review and incorporate pertinent findings from:
 - Cognitive testing
 - Laboratory testing
 - Specific Risk Factors
 - Cerebrospinal fluid analysis
 - HIV testing
 - Lyme titer
 - Imaging tests
 - Medicolegal issues
 - POA
 - Personal directives
 - Medications/Treatment options
 - Interventions/Resources

NOTE: This tool is intended to assist with documentation only and is not intended to take the place of clinical analysis. Information regarding any law or regulation does not constitute legal or tax advice and is subject to change based upon the issuance of new guidance and/or change in laws or regulations. Reference Official ICD-10-CM coding guidelines and manuals or electronic medical coding software for accurate ICD-10-CM codes and specificity.

