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Question: 1

A compliance auditor reviews claims for ophthalmic diagnostic testing. Several charts report OCT, fundus photography, and visual field testing on the same date for stable glaucoma, but the notes contain identical copied medical necessity statements and no individualized interpretation for two of the tests.

Which audit concern is most appropriate?

- A. Visual field testing automatically includes OCT and fundus photography when glaucoma is diagnosed
- B. The coder should append modifier 24 to each test because the patient has a chronic condition
- C. Copied documentation may fail to support medical necessity and separate interpretation for each diagnostic test
- D. Multiple diagnostic tests are always prohibited on the same date for ophthalmology patients

Answer: C

Question: 2

A glaucoma specialist documents: "Capsular glaucoma with pseudoexfoliation of lens, moderate stage, left eye. No primary open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension is documented." The patient is continuing pressure-lowering drops.

Which ICD-10-CM coding approach is most appropriate?

- A. Report primary open-angle glaucoma because pressure-lowering drops are being used
- B. Report unspecified glaucoma because the note does not include a cup-to-disc ratio
- C. Report ocular hypertension because pseudoexfoliation always means elevated pressure only
- D. Report capsular glaucoma with pseudoexfoliation of lens, left eye, moderate stage

Answer: D

Question: 3

A patient is in the global surgical period after left-eye cataract surgery. The same ophthalmologist evaluates sudden vision loss in the right eye, diagnoses a new retinal tear, and performs same-day laser retinopexy on the right eye. The right-eye condition is unrelated to the left-eye cataract surgery, and the E/M service includes a significant evaluation leading to the procedure.

Which modifier strategy is most appropriate if payer rules support separate reporting?

- A. Append modifier 78 to the E/M service because the retinal tear required urgent treatment

- B. Append modifier 79 to the unrelated right-eye procedure and modifier 25 to the significant same-day E/M service
- C. Append modifier 24 to the right-eye procedure because it is unrelated to the cataract surgery
- D. Append modifier 58 to the right-eye procedure because any eye surgery during a global period is staged

Answer: B

Question: 4

A pediatric patient undergoes recession of the right inferior oblique muscle for hypertropia. The operative note identifies the inferior oblique muscle and documents unilateral surgery. No horizontal rectus muscle surgery is performed.

Which coding distinction is most important?

- A. Select strabismus surgery coding based on unilateral oblique muscle surgery as documented
- B. Report bilateral horizontal muscle surgery because hypertropia involves both eyes' alignment
- C. Report ptosis repair because vertical deviation affects the visual axis
- D. Report retinal surgery because hypertropia causes abnormal visual perception

Answer: A

Question: 5

A surgeon documents evisceration of the left eye with implant placement after severe endophthalmitis. The operative note states that the intraocular contents were removed while the scleral shell was preserved. No enucleation or orbital exenteration is performed.

Which coding approach is most appropriate?

- A. Report enucleation because any blind painful eye removal requires globe removal coding
- B. Report vitrectomy only because intraocular contents were removed
- C. Report evisceration with implant based on removal of intraocular contents with scleral shell preservation
- D. Report orbital exenteration because infection requires removal of all orbital tissues

Answer: C

Question: 6

An established patient presents for worsening blepharitis. The ophthalmologist documents a medically appropriate history and examination, reviews current medication use, adjusts lid hygiene therapy, and

prescribes a topical antibiotic ointment. The physician chooses office/outpatient E/M coding and documents low medical decision making.

Which E/M coding principle is most appropriate?

- A. Select a procedure code only because prescribing topical medication is a minor procedure
- B. Select a comprehensive ophthalmological service because any prescription medication requires a comprehensive eye code
- C. Select a new-patient E/M level because a new flare of an existing condition is being treated
- D. Select the established-patient office/outpatient E/M level supported by the documented MDM or time

Answer: D

Question: 7

An ophthalmologist performs fitting of a bandage contact lens for a persistent corneal epithelial defect after documenting the ocular surface finding and treatment plan. The note does not describe refractive contact lens fitting for vision correction or removal of a corneal foreign body.

Which coding focus is most appropriate?

- A. Report refractive contact lens fitting because all contact lenses are coded for vision correction
- B. Report cataract surgery because the contact lens acts as a replacement lens
- C. Report therapeutic contact lens fitting or supply according to documentation and payer rules
- D. Report corneal foreign body removal because epithelial defects always result from retained material

Answer: C

Question: 8

A surgeon performs drainage of a choroidal effusion in the right eye after glaucoma surgery. The operative note documents scleral incision, drainage of suprachoroidal fluid, and closure. No retinal detachment repair, vitrectomy, or cataract extraction is performed.

Which coding focus is most appropriate?

- A. Report drainage of choroidal effusion based on the documented suprachoroidal fluid drainage
- B. Report pars plana vitrectomy because intraocular fluid was removed
- C. Report retinal detachment repair because choroidal effusion is the same as retinal detachment
- D. Report cataract extraction because the complication occurred after eye surgery

Answer: A

Question: 9

A retina clinic performs dark adaptation testing for suspected inherited retinal disease. The record documents the test protocol, measured rod-intercept time, physician interpretation, and how the result affects genetic counseling referral. No electroretinography or OCT is performed that day.

Which reporting action is most appropriate?

- A. Report OCT because inherited retinal disease is always evaluated with imaging
- B. Determine whether dark adaptation testing has a payer-recognized reporting pathway and whether documentation supports it
- C. Report only genetic counseling because the result led to referral
- D. Report electroretinography because all retinal function tests use the same code

Answer: B

Question: 10

A child undergoes recession and resection surgery on the same horizontal rectus muscle group of the right eye for exotropia. The operative note documents right lateral rectus recession and right medial rectus resection. No surgery is performed on the left eye.

Which coding distinction is most important?

- A. Report oblique muscle surgery because exotropia requires vertical muscle balancing
- B. Report ptosis repair because ocular alignment surgery improves visual development
- C. Report bilateral strabismus surgery because exotropia affects alignment between both eyes
- D. Report unilateral horizontal rectus muscle surgery based on the two right-eye muscles treated

Answer: D

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