

Medical Decision-Making Clinical Examples

CPT has not published clinical examples for 2023 Number and Complexity of Problem(s) addressed (COPA). However, the American College of Emergency Medicine has posted examples in their FAQs. These lists are not all-inclusive.

99282 – Minimal:

- 1 self-limited or minor problem

Suture removal*	Dressing changes*
Packing removal*	

*Except when included in a procedure’s global package

99283 – Low:

- 2 or more self-limited problems, or
- 1 acute, uncomplicated illness or injury, or
- 1 stable, acute illness, or

Uncomplicated Injuries:	Uncomplicated Illnesses:
<p>Minor traumatic injuries that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appropriately evaluated without x-rays and • can usually be managed with over-the-counter medications. <p>Example: Extremity injuries with limited pain, swelling, or bruising</p>	<p>Minor illnesses with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no associated systemic symptoms and • can be evaluated without testing or imaging and • can be reasonably treated with over-the-counter medications. <p>Example: Isolated URI symptoms</p>

ED presentations in this category will be limited to localized complaints that do not include additional signs or symptoms

99284 - Moderate:

- **1 or more chronic illnesses with exacerbation, progression, or side effect of treatment, or**
- **1 undiagnosed new problem with uncertain progress, or**
- **1 acute illness with systemic symptoms, or**
- **1 acute, complicated injury**

Abdominal Pain	Psychiatric complaints
Back Pain	Shortness of breath
Chest Pain	Systemic rash
Diarrhea	Vomiting
Dizziness	Weakness
Headache, Neck pain	Syncope

99285 - High:

- **1 or more chronic illness with severe exacerbation, progression, or side effects of treatment, or**
- **1 acute or chronic illness or injury that poses a threat to life or bodily function**

Active labor	Missed/incomplete abortion
Ectopic pregnancy	Ocular emergencies
Acute intra-abdominal infection or inflammatory process	Ovarian torsion
Behavioral health decompensation	Pulmonary embolism
Cardiac arrhythmia	Seizure
Cardiac ischemia	Sepsis
Congestive heart failure	Sickle cell crisis

Croup or asthma requiring significant treatment	Significant blood loss
CVA, acute neurological change	Significant complications of pregnancy
DKA or other significant complications of diabetes	Significant eye injury
Endocrine emergencies	Significant fractures or dislocations
Epiglottitis	Significant infection
Exacerbation of CHF	Significant metabolic disturbance
Exacerbation of COPD	Significant penetrating trauma
Gastrointestinal obstruction	Significant vascular disruption, aneurysm, or injury
Hypertensive crisis	Solid organ injury
Intracranial hemorrhage	Testicular torsion
Intra-thoracic or intra-abdominal injury due to blunt trauma	Toxic ingestion
Kidney stone with potential complications	

References: <https://www.acep.org/administration/reimbursement/reimbursement-faqs/2023-ed-em-guidelines-faqs/>

<https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/2023-e-m-descriptors-guidelines.pdf>