

CDI EDUCATIONAL TOPIC: ANEMIA



The diagnostic criterion for anemia is

- : Hb < 12 g/dL, Hct < 37%, or RBC < 4 million/ μ

~~Three Major Mechanisms that result in anemia:~~

1. Inadequate production of red blood cells

Iron, vitamin B 12, and folate (folic acid), and a balance of hormones, like erythropoietin are needed. Chronic disease may also affect red cell production; in cancer the bone marrow space may be invaded resulting in decreased production of red blood cells.

2. Excessive destruction of red blood cells

- Extrinsic maybe due to: infection, tumors, autoimmune disorders, medication side effects, leukemia, lymphoma
- Intrinsic: This condition is often inherited, such as in people with sickle cell anemia or thalassemia, who have abnormal hemoglobin.

3. Blood Loss.

Blood loss from any cause may result in anemia, which may be acute, chronic, or acute on chronic.

- Chronic often is the result of chronic gastrointestinal bleeding, and the cause should be specifically identified if possible or suspected.
- Acute is associated with acute or subacute GI bleeding, trauma, or surgery.

Quality Documentation MUST Answers these Questions:

- Is the anemia due to a neoplasm (primary and/or secondary)?

"Chronic anemia due to colon cancer."

- Is there a "cause-and-effect" relationship between an intervention and the blood disorder?

"Acute blood loss anemia due to menorrhagia."

- What specific drug is causing drug-induced anemia?

"Hemolytic anemia due to ibuprofen."

- Is anemia due to nutritional or mineral deficits?

..And Always AVOID these Pitfalls:

- Not specifying if the anemia is Acute or Chronic
- Documenting anemia when there are NO clinical indicators
- Writing "history of anemia" when indicators ARE present.
- Ignoring acute blood loss or suggesting it is a complication.*

*A diagnosis of acute blood loss anemia--is not classified as a complication of care.

However, a diagnosis of "postop hemorrhage" or "hemorrhage due to surgery" is treated as a complication.

References: www.freemedicalcoding.com/resources/icd-10-guidelines-on-specific-diagnosis-or-conditions-in-anemia/ "Blood loss anemia" By Richard Pinson, MD, FACP ACP Hospitalist January 2016

Clarification: Anemia documentation and coding presents communication hazards CDI Strategies, September 3, 2009 "Hemolytic Anemia: What It Is and How to Treat It" <https://www.healthline.com/health/hemolytic-anemia>

Augmenting Your CDI Program for Risk Adjustment" By Michelle M. Wiczorek RN RHIT CPHQ ICD10 Monitor, Nov 2016