

Elements of complexity in medical decision making

The complexity (type) of medical decision making is determined by meeting or exceeding 2 of the 3 elements below.

Complexity (type) of medical decision making	Number of diagnoses or management options	Amount and/or complexity of data reviewed	Risk of complications, morbidity and/or mortality
Straightforward	Minimal	Minimal or none	Minimal
Low	Limited	Limited	Low
Moderate	Multiple	Moderate	Moderate
High	Extensive	Extensive	High

Modified from “Documentation Guidelines for Evaluation and Management (E/M) Services” from the CMS Medical Learning Network (available online at www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNEdWebGuide/EMDOC.html). December 2010.