

Diagnosis Coding of Annual Wellness Visits

Pediatrics

- Z00.121 – Encounter for routine child health examination with abnormal findings
 - Use additional code to identify abnormal findings
- Z00.129 – Encounter for routine child health examination without abnormal findings

Adults

- Z00.00 – Encounter for general adult medical examination without abnormal findings
- Z00.01 – Encounter for general adult medical examination with abnormal findings

For codes that distinguish between with and without abnormal findings, select the code based on what is known at the time of the visit.

An examination with abnormal findings refers to a condition or diagnosis that is newly discovered or a chronic condition that has changed in severity during a routine physical examination.

These codes should not be used for diagnosis of a suspected condition or for treatment purposes.

Examples

- Well Child without Abnormal Findings: A child is seen for a well care visit at which time previously diagnosed bronchitis is still under treatment. This visit is coded Z00.129, along with the appropriate code for the bronchitis. Previously diagnosed conditions are not considered abnormal findings unless worsening or uncontrolled during the current visit.¹
- Adult Physical Exam without Abnormal Findings: An adult with stable COPD is seen for an annual health check during which COPD is monitored. Code Z00.00, plus the appropriate code for COPD.¹
- Well Child with Abnormal Findings: A child is seen for a well care visit at which time acute right suppurative otitis media is diagnosed. The visit is coded Z00.121, along with the code for the acute otitis media.¹
- Adult Physical Exam with Abnormal Findings: An adult with HTN is seen for an annual health check. At the time of the visit, blood pressure is elevated so the physician adjusts medication for better control. Code Z00.01, plus the code for HTN.¹

All chronic conditions should be evaluated and reported annually.

Every medication should have an associated diagnosis.

References:

- ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting, Section I.C.21.c.13 <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2023-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf>
- ¹AHA Coding Clinic®, 2016, Issue 1, Ask the Editor