

My Coding Coach
Clinical Competencies Review: Altered Mental Status
 Updated 1/2018

ICD-10-CM Code	Code Descriptor
R41.82	Altered mental status, unspecified

Clinical/Coding Considerations: Look for the underlying cause of the altered mental status including, but not limited to, underlying brain disease including, Alzheimer’s, late effect of stroke, and or Parkinson’s. Do not assign altered mental status when the underlying cause of the condition is documented. If the signs and symptoms of sepsis are present, query to see if there is a possible connection between the two conditions (altered mental status and sepsis). Metabolic encephalopathy does occur in sepsis. Do not make assumptions in this regard as a patient who presents as dehydrated may have a mild mental status alteration. With the infusion of fluids, the mental status alteration resolves.

The available AHA Coding Clinics for this condition are listed below under references.

References:

AHA Coding Clinic dated 4th quarter 2015 page 2015 page 40 Interpretation of Excludes 1 Notes

Lynn Thornton, RHIA, CCS
 Website Administrator/Founder
 My Coding Coach
 lthornton@mycodingcoach.com

