

**The correct answer is that all EIGHT HPI elements are documented.**

**CHIEF COMPLAINT:** "Stomach ache."

**HPI:** The patient developed intermittent abdominal pain associated with extreme sleepiness after eating four helpings of turkey earlier today. He states that the pain, which is described as "crampy" and 7/10 in severity, is partially relieved by lying on the couch and watching football.

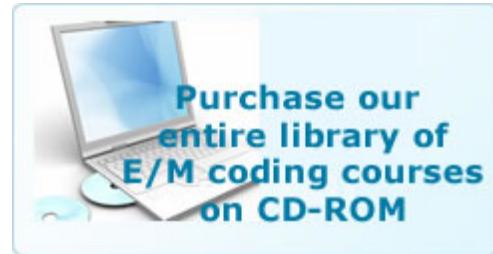
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|---|--|
| 1. Timing ("intermittent")                          | 5. Duration ("earlier today")                            |
| 2. Location ("abdominal")                           | 6. Quality ("crampy")                                    |
| 3. Associated signs/symptoms ("extreme sleepiness") | 7. Severity ("7/10")                                     |
| 4. Context ("after eating four helpings of turkey") | 8. Modifying factors ("relieved by...watching football") |

### **HPI Factoids**

1. Every level of history requires an HPI (although you can call it an interval history if you like.)
2. The HPI must be completed by the provider (not the ancillary staff).
3. There are two levels of HPI: brief vs. extended.
4. The 1995 E/M guidelines state you can complete a brief HPI using one to three HPI elements and an extended HPI using at least four HPI elements. You can also complete an extended HPI according to the 1995 E/M guidelines by describing at least FOUR co-morbidities.
5. The 1997 E/M guidelines state that you can complete a brief HPI by using one to three HPI elements and an extended HPI using four or more HPI elements. You can also complete an extended HPI using the 1997 E/M guidelines if you comment on the status of THREE chronic or inactive conditions. (Nobody really knows what "chronic or inactive conditions" means.)
6. Nowhere in the 1995 or the 1997 E/M guidelines does it mention that you can qualify for a brief HPI without using the HPI elements (although as a matter of convention, if you comment on one to two chronic illnesses, you would usually get credit for a brief HPI.)



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