#### MEDICARE CHARTING EXAMPLES

MEDICARE CHARTING EXAMPLES ARE ESSENTIAL TOOLS FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS SEEKING TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE, ACCURACY, AND CLARITY IN DOCUMENTING PATIENT CARE UNDER MEDICARE GUIDELINES. THIS COMPREHENSIVE ARTICLE EXPLORES THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER MEDICARE CHARTING, DELVES INTO VARIOUS CHARTING METHODS, AND PROVIDES PRACTICAL EXAMPLES ACROSS DIFFERENT SETTINGS SUCH AS HOSPITALS, HOME HEALTH, AND SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES. READERS WILL LEARN ABOUT DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS, COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID, AND TIPS FOR STREAMLINING CHARTING PROCESSES. BY UNDERSTANDING THESE MEDICARE CHARTING EXAMPLES, PROVIDERS CAN IMPROVE CLINICAL OUTCOMES, SUPPORT REIMBURSEMENT CLAIMS, AND MAINTAIN REGULATORY STANDARDS. WHETHER YOU ARE NEW TO MEDICARE DOCUMENTATION OR SEEKING TO REFINE YOUR SKILLS, THIS ARTICLE EQUIPS YOU WITH ACTIONABLE INSIGHTS AND BEST PRACTICES TO ELEVATE YOUR CHARTING PROFICIENCY.

- Understanding Medicare Charting Requirements
- KEY ELEMENTS OF ACCURATE MEDICARE CHARTING
- Medicare Charting Examples by Care Setting
- COMMON DOCUMENTATION MISTAKES AND HOW TO AVOID THEM
- TIPS FOR IMPROVING MEDICARE CHARTING EFFICIENCY
- Frequently Asked Questions About Medicare Charting Examples

# UNDERSTANDING MEDICARE CHARTING REQUIREMENTS

MEDICARE CHARTING REQUIREMENTS ARE DESIGNED TO ENSURE THAT HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS MAINTAIN THOROUGH, ACCURATE, AND COMPLIANT DOCUMENTATION OF PATIENT CARE. PROPER CHARTING SUPPORTS MEDICAL NECESSITY, FACILITATES SEAMLESS COMMUNICATION AMONG CARE TEAMS, AND PROTECTS PROVIDERS DURING AUDITS AND REVIEWS. MEDICARE MANDATES SPECIFIC STANDARDS FOR DOCUMENTATION, INCLUDING THE NEED FOR PRECISE RECORDS OF ASSESSMENTS, DIAGNOSES, TREATMENTS, AND PATIENT OUTCOMES. ADHERING TO THESE REQUIREMENTS NOT ONLY SAFEGUARDS REIMBURSEMENT BUT ALSO ENHANCES PATIENT SAFETY AND QUALITY OF CARE.

#### CORE DOCUMENTATION STANDARDS

MEDICARE DOCUMENTATION STANDARDS EMPHASIZE COMPLETENESS, CLARITY, AND CONSISTENCY. HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS MUST INCLUDE RELEVANT PATIENT HISTORY, PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS, TREATMENT PLANS, AND FOLLOW-UP CARE DETAILS. EACH ENTRY SHOULD REFLECT THE PATIENT'S CURRENT CONDITION AND JUSTIFY THE CARE PROVIDED. ADDITIONALLY, TIMELY AND LEGIBLE RECORDS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR COMPLIANCE.

- DOCUMENTING MEDICAL NECESSITY FOR ALL SERVICES
- RECORDING PATIENT RESPONSE TO INTERVENTIONS
- CAPTURING PROVIDER SIGNATURES AND DATES
- ENSURING RECORDS ARE MAINTAINED SECURELY AND CONFIDENTIALLY

#### MEDICARE-SPECIFIC FORMS AND TOOLS

MEDICARE UTILIZES SPECIFIC FORMS SUCH AS THE CMS-485 FOR HOME HEALTH SERVICES AND MINIMUM DATA SET (MDS) FOR SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES. FAMILIARITY WITH THESE FORMS AND THEIR REQUIREMENTS IS CRUCIAL FOR ACCURATE CHARTING. ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS (EHRS) HAVE ALSO STREAMLINED THE CHARTING PROCESS, REDUCING ERRORS AND IMPROVING ACCESSIBILITY.

#### KEY ELEMENTS OF ACCURATE MEDICARE CHARTING

ACCURATE MEDICARE CHARTING INVOLVES SEVERAL FOUNDATIONAL ELEMENTS THAT SUPPORT COMPLIANCE AND CLINICAL INTEGRITY. PROVIDERS MUST DOCUMENT EVERY ASPECT OF PATIENT CARE, FROM INITIAL ASSESSMENT THROUGH DISCHARGE, WITH ATTENTION TO DETAIL AND ADHERENCE TO MEDICARE GUIDELINES.

#### ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENTS ARE THE CORNERSTONE OF MEDICARE DOCUMENTATION. PROVIDERS MUST RECORD OBJECTIVE FINDINGS, PATIENT-REPORTED SYMPTOMS, AND RELEVANT HISTORY. THIS INFORMATION ESTABLISHES THE BASIS FOR MEDICAL NECESSITY AND INFORMS THE CARE PLAN.

#### TREATMENT AND INTERVENTION DOCUMENTATION

EVERY TREATMENT, MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION, AND INTERVENTION SHOULD BE DOCUMENTED WITH SPECIFICITY. CHARTING SHOULD INCLUDE THE RATIONALE FOR INTERVENTIONS, FREQUENCY, DURATION, AND PATIENT RESPONSE. FOR EXAMPLE, PHYSICAL THERAPY NOTES MUST DETAIL EXERCISES PERFORMED, PROGRESS, AND OUTCOMES.

#### PROGRESS NOTES AND OUTCOMES

Ongoing progress notes demonstrate the effectiveness of care and any changes in the patient's condition. These entries support continuity of care and provide evidence for Medicare audits. Providers should record improvements, setbacks, and any modifications to the care plan.

- 1. INITIAL PATIENT ASSESSMENT WITH RELEVANT HISTORY
- 2. DETAILED TREATMENT PLANS AND INTERVENTIONS
- 3. REGULAR PROGRESS NOTES DOCUMENTING CHANGES
- 4. CLEAR DISCHARGE SUMMARIES WITH INSTRUCTIONS

## MEDICARE CHARTING EXAMPLES BY CARE SETTING

MEDICARE CHARTING VARIES BY CARE SETTING, WITH DISTINCT DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR HOSPITALS, HOME HEALTH AGENCIES, AND SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES. UNDERSTANDING THESE DIFFERENCES IS ESSENTIAL FOR ACCURATE AND COMPLIANT CHARTING.

#### HOSPITAL CHARTING EXAMPLE

In hospitals, Medicare charting focuses on documenting admission criteria, ongoing assessments, physician orders, and discharge planning. For instance, a nurse's note may include vital signs, pain assessments, medication administration, and patient education provided during a shift.

#### HOME HEALTH CHARTING EXAMPLE

HOME HEALTH AGENCIES MUST DOCUMENT SKILLED SERVICES SUCH AS WOUND CARE, PHYSICAL THERAPY, AND PATIENT TEACHING. A TYPICAL MEDICARE CHARTING EXAMPLE IN THIS SETTING MIGHT INCLUDE A NURSE'S WEEKLY VISIT NOTE DETAILING WOUND ASSESSMENT, DRESSING CHANGES, PATIENT EDUCATION ON INFECTION PREVENTION, AND RESPONSE TO TREATMENT.

#### SKILLED NURSING FACILITY CHARTING EXAMPLE

Skilled nursing documentation under Medicare requires thorough recording of daily care activities, rehabilitation progress, and resident assessments. An example includes documenting the results of a quarterly Minimum Data Set (MDS) assessment, physical therapy sessions, medication administration, and nutritional status updates.

- HOSPITAL: ADMISSION ASSESSMENT, PHYSICIAN ORDERS, DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS
- HOME HEALTH: SKILLED NURSING NOTES, THERAPY PROGRESS, PATIENT TEACHING
- SkILLED NURSING FACILITY: MDS ASSESSMENTS, DAILY CARE LOGS, REHAB DOCUMENTATION

# COMMON DOCUMENTATION MISTAKES AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

PROPER MEDICARE CHARTING REDUCES THE RISK OF ERRORS THAT CAN LEAD TO DENIED CLAIMS, AUDITS, OR COMPROMISED PATIENT CARE. RECOGNIZING COMMON MISTAKES AND IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES TO AVOID THEM IS VITAL FOR EVERY PROVIDER.

#### INCOMPLETE OR MISSING INFORMATION

FAILING TO RECORD ASSESSMENTS, INTERVENTIONS, OR OUTCOMES CAN JEOPARDIZE COMPLIANCE AND REIMBURSEMENT. PROVIDERS SHOULD ENSURE EVERY ENCOUNTER IS FULLY DOCUMENTED, INCLUDING TIME, DATE, AND SIGNATURE.

#### ILLEGIBLE OR VAGUE ENTRIES

ENTRIES THAT ARE UNCLEAR OR ILLEGIBLE COMPROMISE THE INTEGRITY OF THE MEDICAL RECORD. USING ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS, STANDARDIZED TEMPLATES, AND CLEAR LANGUAGE CAN MINIMIZE THESE ISSUES.

#### INCONSISTENT TERMINOLOGY

Using inconsistent or non-standard terminology may lead to confusion and errors in interpretation. Providers should adhere to accepted medical terminology and Medicare-approved abbreviations for clarity and uniformity.

1. DOUBLE-CHECK ALL CHART ENTRIES FOR COMPLETENESS

- 2. UTILIZE STANDARDIZED FORMS AND TEMPLATES
- 3. TRAIN STAFF REGULARLY ON DOCUMENTATION BEST PRACTICES
- 4. REVIEW RECORDS FOR ACCURACY BEFORE SUBMISSION

#### TIPS FOR IMPROVING MEDICARE CHARTING EFFICIENCY

EFFICIENT MEDICARE CHARTING SAVES TIME, REDUCES ERRORS, AND ENHANCES COMPLIANCE. PROVIDERS CAN IMPLEMENT SEVERAL STRATEGIES TO STREAMLINE DOCUMENTATION WHILE MAINTAINING ACCURACY AND COMPLETENESS.

#### UTILIZE ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD SYSTEMS

ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS (EHRS) FACILITATE RAPID ENTRY, RETRIEVAL, AND REVIEW OF PATIENT DATA. EHRS OFTEN INCORPORATE PROMPTS AND TEMPLATES THAT ENSURE ALL REQUIRED MEDICARE DOCUMENTATION FIELDS ARE COMPLETED.

#### STANDARDIZE CHARTING PROCESSES

DEVELOPING STANDARDIZED CHARTING PROTOCOLS AND CHECKLISTS ACROSS THE ORGANIZATION PROMOTES CONSISTENCY AND MINIMIZES OMISSIONS. REGULAR STAFF TRAINING ON THESE PROCESSES SUPPORTS ONGOING COMPLIANCE.

#### CONDUCT REGULAR CHART AUDITS

ROUTINE AUDITS OF MEDICARE CHARTING HELP IDENTIFY DOCUMENTATION GAPS, ERRORS, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT. AUDIT FEEDBACK SHOULD BE USED TO REFINE PROCESSES AND EDUCATE STAFF.

- ADOPT USER-FRIENDLY EHR PLATFORMS
- IMPLEMENT CHARTING CHECKLISTS FOR CRITICAL DOCUMENTATION
- SCHEDULE PERIODIC DOCUMENTATION REVIEWS
- Provide ongoing education and support for staff

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MEDICARE CHARTING EXAMPLES

HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS OFTEN HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING MEDICARE CHARTING EXAMPLES, DOCUMENTATION STANDARDS, AND BEST PRACTICES. THE FOLLOWING SECTION ADDRESSES SOME OF THE MOST COMMON INQUIRIES TO PROVIDE CLARITY AND GUIDANCE.

# Q: WHAT ARE SOME COMMON MEDICARE CHARTING EXAMPLES FOR HOME HEALTH CARE?

A: COMMON MEDICARE CHARTING EXAMPLES IN HOME HEALTH CARE INCLUDE DOCUMENTATION OF SKILLED NURSING VISITS, WOUND ASSESSMENTS, THERAPY PROGRESS NOTES, PATIENT TEACHING, AND RESPONSE TO TREATMENT. EACH ENTRY MUST DEMONSTRATE MEDICAL NECESSITY AND ADHERENCE TO THE CARE PLAN.

# Q: How can providers ensure their Medicare charting meets compliance standards?

A: Providers can ensure compliance by following Medicare documentation guidelines, using standardized forms, completing records promptly, and participating in regular staff training and chart audits.

# Q: WHAT DOCUMENTATION IS REQUIRED FOR MEDICARE REIMBURSEMENT IN SKILLED NURSING FACILITIES?

A: Skilled nursing facilities must document assessments such as the Minimum Data Set (MDS), daily care activities, rehabilitation progress, medication administration, and any changes in resident status to support Medicare reimbursement.

### Q: WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF INCOMPLETE MEDICARE CHARTING?

A: INCOMPLETE CHARTING CAN RESULT IN DENIED CLAIMS, COMPLIANCE VIOLATIONS, INCREASED RISK DURING AUDITS, AND POTENTIAL LEGAL OR FINANCIAL PENALTIES FOR THE PROVIDER OR FACILITY.

### Q: How do electronic health records improve Medicare charting accuracy?

A: ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS (EHRS) REDUCE ERRORS BY PROMPTING REQUIRED FIELDS, STANDARDIZING DOCUMENTATION FORMATS, AND PROVIDING EASY ACCESS TO PATIENT DATA, WHICH SUPPORTS ACCURATE AND COMPLETE MEDICARE CHARTING.

#### Q: WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A MEDICARE PROGRESS NOTE?

A: A MEDICARE PROGRESS NOTE SHOULD INCLUDE OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT FINDINGS, DETAILS OF INTERVENTIONS PERFORMED, PATIENT RESPONSE, CHANGES IN CONDITION, AND PLANS FOR ONGOING CARE OR FOLLOW-UP.

# Q: CAN STANDARDIZED TEMPLATES BE USED FOR MEDICARE CHARTING?

A: YES, STANDARDIZED TEMPLATES HELP ENSURE THAT ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION ELEMENTS ARE INCLUDED AND SUPPORT CONSISTENCY IN CHARTING ACROSS PROVIDERS AND CARE SETTINGS.

# Q: WHAT ARE EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR AVOIDING CHARTING ERRORS?

A: EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES INCLUDE ROUTINE STAFF EDUCATION, USE OF CHECKLISTS, REGULAR CHART AUDITS, ADOPTING EHRS, AND DOUBLE-CHECKING DOCUMENTATION FOR ACCURACY AND COMPLETENESS.

# Q: How often should providers update Medicare documentation?

A: Providers should update Medicare documentation during each patient encounter, following any significant change in condition, at discharge, and as required by specific Medicare guidelines.

# Q: WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENTS TO DOCUMENT FOR MEDICARE PATIENTS?

A: THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENTS INCLUDE INITIAL ASSESSMENTS, TREATMENT PLANS, INTERVENTIONS PERFORMED, PATIENT PROGRESS, OUTCOMES, AND DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS, ALL SUPPORTED BY CLEAR MEDICAL NECESSITY.

# **Medicare Charting Examples**

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# Medicare Charting Examples: A Comprehensive Guide for Healthcare Professionals

#### Introduction:

Accurate and thorough charting is crucial for successful Medicare billing and patient care. Medicare, with its stringent regulations, demands precise documentation to justify medical necessity and avoid costly denials. This comprehensive guide provides practical examples of effective Medicare charting, covering various medical specialties and common procedures. We'll explore key elements, essential components, and best practices to ensure your documentation is not only compliant but also supports optimal patient outcomes. Understanding Medicare charting examples is paramount for efficient practice management and maximizing reimbursement.

# **H2: Understanding the Importance of Accurate Medicare Charting**

Accurate Medicare charting isn't just about avoiding penalties; it's about demonstrating the value of your services. Medicare requires documentation that clearly justifies medical necessity, showing a direct link between the services provided and the patient's diagnosed condition. Incomplete or poorly documented charts often lead to claim denials, resulting in financial losses and administrative burdens. Conversely, meticulous charting protects your practice from audits and demonstrates responsible, high-quality care.

# **H2: Key Elements of Compliant Medicare Charting**

Several key elements must be present in all Medicare charts to ensure compliance. These include:

#### **H3: Patient Identification:**

This is fundamental. Ensure the patient's full name, date of birth, and Medicare beneficiary number are clearly and accurately recorded in the chart. Any discrepancies can lead to immediate rejection of claims.

#### H3: Date and Time of Service:

Precise documentation of the date and time of each service is essential for accurate billing. Ambiguity can lead to payment delays or denials.

# **H3: Detailed History of Present Illness (HPI):**

The HPI should comprehensively describe the patient's current medical condition, including the onset, duration, severity, and character of symptoms. Use quantifiable data whenever possible (e.g., "patient reports chest pain radiating to the left arm, rated 8/10 on a pain scale").

# **H3: Physical Examination Findings:**

Document all relevant physical examination findings objectively. Instead of writing "patient appears unwell," specify observable signs such as "tachycardia (heart rate 110 bpm), tachypnea (respiratory rate 24 breaths/minute), and pallor."

# **H3: Diagnoses:**

Use appropriate ICD-10 codes to accurately represent the patient's diagnoses. Ensure the codes align with the documented symptoms, examination findings, and treatment provided.

# **H3: Assessment and Plan:**

This section outlines your professional assessment of the patient's condition and the plan for treatment. Clearly state the rationale for the chosen treatment, including the expected outcomes and potential risks.

## **H3: Procedures Performed:**

Detail all procedures performed, including the date, time, and specific techniques used. For surgical procedures, include the incision site, duration of the procedure, and any complications encountered.

#### **H3: Medications Prescribed:**

List all medications prescribed, including the dosage, frequency, and route of administration.

# **H3: Provider Signature and Credentials:**

The chart must be signed by the treating provider with their full name, credentials (e.g., MD, DO, NP), and signature.

# **H2: Medicare Charting Examples: Case Studies**

Let's illustrate these elements with two examples:

# **H3: Example 1: Office Visit for Hypertension**

Date: October 26, 2024

Patient: John Doe, DOB: 01/15/1960, Medicare Beneficiary Number: [redacted]

HPI: Mr. Doe presents with a chief complaint of persistent hypertension. He reports experiencing headaches for the past month, describes them as throbbing and occurring primarily in the mornings. Blood pressure has been consistently elevated at home, averaging 160/95 mmHg.

Physical Exam: BP 165/95 mmHg. No other significant findings.

Assessment: Essential Hypertension (I10).

Plan: Prescribed Lisinopril 10mg daily. Ordered repeat blood pressure check in one month. Patient educated on lifestyle modifications including dietary changes and regular exercise.

# **H3: Example 2: Surgical Procedure - Appendectomy**

Date: November 15, 2024

Patient: Jane Smith, DOB: 05/20/1975, Medicare Beneficiary Number: [redacted]

HPI: Ms. Smith presented with acute onset of right lower quadrant abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting for 12 hours. Symptoms progressively worsened.

Physical Exam: Tenderness to palpation in the right lower quadrant. Rebound tenderness present. Elevated white blood cell count (WBC) of  $15,000/\mu L$ .

Assessment: Acute Appendicitis (K35.9)

Procedure: Appendectomy performed via laparoscopic approach. Procedure duration: 45 minutes. No complications encountered.

Post-operative Plan: Patient admitted for overnight observation. Prescribed IV antibiotics and analgesics.

# **H2: Best Practices for Medicare Charting**

Use clear and concise language: Avoid medical jargon and abbreviations that Medicare reviewers may not understand.

Maintain chronological order: Document entries in chronological order to facilitate easy review and understanding.

Be objective and factual: Avoid subjective opinions or interpretations.

Use approved abbreviations: Refer to official lists of approved abbreviations to ensure compliance. Regularly review and update your charting system: Keep your charting system up-to-date with the latest Medicare guidelines and regulations.

# **Conclusion**

Accurate and thorough Medicare charting is not merely a regulatory requirement; it's a critical aspect of providing high-quality patient care and ensuring efficient reimbursement. By following the key elements and best practices outlined in this guide, healthcare professionals can create compliant charts that protect their practices and demonstrate the value of their services. Remember, consistent attention to detail is paramount in successfully navigating the complexities of Medicare billing.

# **FAQs**

- 1. What happens if my Medicare charting is incomplete or inaccurate? Incomplete or inaccurate charting can result in claim denials, audits, and potential financial penalties.
- 2. Are there specific software programs recommended for Medicare charting? While many EMR systems are compliant, it's crucial to ensure the chosen software meets all Medicare documentation requirements. Check with your Medicare administrator for approved systems.
- 3. Can I use abbreviations in my Medicare charting? Only use approved abbreviations. Refer to official guidelines for a comprehensive list. Using non-approved abbreviations may lead to claim denials.
- 4. How often should I review my charting procedures? Regularly reviewing and updating your charting system to ensure compliance with the latest Medicare guidelines is best practice. Aim for at least an annual review.
- 5. Where can I find more information about Medicare charting regulations? The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website is the primary source for up-to-date information on Medicare billing and documentation regulations.

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Therapy Association documents Updated information to meet Medicare Part B and other third-party payer requirements Revised clinical terminology on par with current trends Added examples from emerging practice areas Expanded tables along with new worksheets and learning activities Included with the text are online supplemental materials for faculty use in the classroom, this includes: access to supplemental website worksheets, learning activities, and scenario-based videos to practice the documentation process.

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exposure, and that serves one or more predetermined scientific, clinical, or policy purposes. A registry database is a file (or files) derived from the registry. Although registries can serve many purposes, this guide focuses on registries created for one or more of the following purposes: to describe the natural history of disease, to determine clinical effectiveness or cost-effectiveness of health care products and services, to measure or monitor safety and harm, and/or to measure quality of care. Registries are classified according to how their populations are defined. For example, product registries include patients who have been exposed to biopharmaceutical products or medical devices. Health services registries consist of patients who have had a common procedure, clinical encounter, or hospitalization. Disease or condition registries are defined by patients having the same diagnosis, such as cystic fibrosis or heart failure. The User's Guide was created by researchers affiliated with AHRQ's Effective Health Care Program, particularly those who participated in AHRQ's DECIDE (Developing Evidence to Inform Decisions About Effectiveness) program. Chapters were subject to multiple internal and external independent reviews.

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Instructor's Manual, PowerPoint slides, data sets in SPSS and Excel, and forms for completion of data management and evaluation plan

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Psychotherapeutic Aspects Palliative Chaplain Spiritual Assessment Progress Notes Charting Spiritual Care: Ethical Perspectives Charting Spiritual Care in Digital Health: Analyses and Perspectives Charting Spiritual Care: The Emerging Role of Chaplaincy Records in Global Health Care is an essential resource for researchers in interprofessional spiritual care and healthcare chaplaincy, healthcare chaplains and other spiritual caregivers (nurses, physicians, psychologists, etc.), practical theologians and health ethicists, and church and denominational representatives.

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edition adds new insight into the ways self-empowerment can help you achieve positive outcomes in class and on the job. - Basic career information includes the value of the LPN, workforce trends, state regulations governing LPN practice, and insight into safe practice and NCLEX-PN® success. -Learning features in each chapter include objectives and key terms with phonetic pronunciations, with definitions in the text and in the glossary. - Storytelling narratives at the beginning of specific chapters use real-life scenarios to provide context for the topic. - Get Ready for the NCLEX-PN® Examination section at the end of each chapter includes key points, critical thinking scenarios, additional learning resources, and review questions with answers at the back of the book. -Test-taking and interview preparation tips prepare students to take the NCLEX-PN Examination and guide you through the job search, applications, and interviews — including electronic resumes. -Critical Thinking boxes provide opportunities to practice problem solving. - Coordinated Care boxes develop leadership and management skills with hints, tools, and activities. - Keep in Mind boxes introduce the underlying theme of each chapter. - Professional Pointers boxes give advice on nursing best practices in practice settings. - Try This! boxes challenge students to imagine, visualize, and think outside the box. - Full-color design makes this text visually appealing and easy to read. -References cite evidence-based information and can be found in the back of the book. - NEW! Next-Generation NCLEX® (NGN) Examination-style questions are provided at the end of each chapter. - NEW! Empowerment boxes introduce tools that can affect positive outcomes in class, clinicals, and professional practice. - NEW! Updated content includes delegation, preparing students for leadership positions immediately upon graduation, and the latest on clinical judgment.

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