

## CPT Coding Physical Exam

When performing a physical exam in general internal medicine, there are 4 types of exams for billing purposes:

Type of exam	Perform/Document
Problem focused (level 2 return)	1 -5 bullets
Expanded problem focused (level 3 return)	6 bullets
Detailed (level 4 return OR level 3 new)	At least 2 bullets from 6 systems
Comprehensive (level 5 return OR level 4 or 5 new OR hospital adm)	Perform all bullets in 9 systems, recording at least 2 bullets from these 9

But what are the bullets and systems?

1. constitutional
  - a. any 3 of these 7 Vital Signs:
    - i. standing or sitting BP
    - ii. supine BP
    - iii. pulse rate and regularity
    - iv. resp rate
    - v. T
    - vi. Height
    - vii. Weight
  - b. General appearance (nutrition, body habitus, grooming, development)
2. Eyes
  - a. Inspection of conj and lids
  - b. Exam of pupils and irises
  - c. Fundoscopic exam
3. Ears, nose, mouth and throat
  - a. extl inspection of ears and nose
  - b. otoscopic exam
  - c. assessment of hearing (whisper, finger rub will do)
  - d. inspection of nasal mucosa, septum and turbinates
  - e. inspection of lips, teeth and gums
  - f. exam of oropharynx

4. Neck
  - a. Exam of neck (masses, appearance, symmetry, trachea, crepitus)
  - b. Exam of thyroid
5. respiratory
  - a. resp effort (acc m use, retraction, diaphragmatic movement)
  - b. percussion
  - c. palpation (fremitus)
  - d. auscultation
6. CV
  - a. Palpation of heart
  - b. Auscultation
  - c. Carotid bruits
  - d. Abd aorta
  - e. Femoral aa
  - f. Pedal pulses
  - g. Ext for edema/varicosities
7. Breasts
  - a. Inspection (symmetry, discharge)
  - b. Palpation
8. GI
  - a. Palpation (mass, tenderness)
  - b. Liver and spleen
  - c. Hernia
  - d. Anus, perineum and rectum (tone, mass, hemorrhoids)
  - e. Occult blood test
9. GU Male
  - a. Scrotal contents (hydrocele, spermatocele, mass, cord tenderness)
  - b. Penis
  - c. DRE of prostateFemale (pelvic exam)
  - a. extl genitalia (gen appearance, hair, lesions) and vagina (gen app, estrogen effect, discharge, lesions, cysto- or rectocele)
  - b. urethra (masses, tenderness, scarring)
  - c. bladder (ditto)
  - d. cervix (gen app, lesions, discharge)
  - e. uterus (size, contour, position, tenderness, scarring, etc.)
  - f. adnexa/parametria (masses, tenderness, organomeg, nodules)
10. Lymphatic  
Palpation in 2 or more areas
  - a. Neck
  - b. Axillae
  - c. Groin
  - d. Other

## 11. Musculoskeletal

- a. Gait and station
- b. Digits and nails
- c. Exam of one or more of the following 6 areas:
  - i. Head and neck
  - ii. Spine, ribs and pelvis
  - iii. RUE
  - iv. LUE
  - v. RLE
  - vi. LLE

This exam includes:

- i. inspection and/or palpation (misalignment, symmetry, crepitus, defects, tenderness, masses, effusions)
- ii. ROM - noting pain, crepitus, contracture
- iii. assessment of stability
- iv. assessment of muscle strength and tone, noting atrophy or abnormal movements

## 12. Skin

- a. Inspection
- b. Palpation (induration, nodules, tightening)

## 13. Neurological

- a. Cranial nerves
- b. DTR's, pathological reflexes
- c. Sensation

## 14. psychiatric

- a. judgment and insight
- b. brief mental status – including
  - i. orientation to time, place, person
  - ii. recent and remote memory
  - iii. mood and affect (depression, anxiety, agitation)