

## Principal Diagnosis

**“The condition established after study to be chiefly responsible for occasioning the admission of the patient to the hospital for care”**

Remember: the diagnosis must be present on admission (POA) to be considered the principal diagnosis. Consider using possible/probable/likely or suspected diagnoses.

E.g. If SIRS criteria are present on admission with a patient who has an infection, consider documenting “possible sepsis”. Remember to go back and clarify the next day.



Remember - Hospital documentation can include “possible, probable, likely or suspected” diagnoses

[DrBrundage@gmail.com](mailto:DrBrundage@gmail.com)

### Suggested Reading

