Introduction to Problem List Calculator

The Problem List Calculator is a new feature in Epic that will help providers include better specificity for ICD-10 documentation compliance. There are thousands of new terms in ICD-10, and the Problem List Calculator can help find the “best term.” However, this is “buyer beware” tool, so use your best judgement if there is a better fit with an alternative term.

Does your specialty use a “Preference List?”

The Physician Champion representing your specialty will determine if a shortened list of commonly used terms can help with efficiency. If so, this will be implemented when submitted. Take care that the terms on the Preference List don’t short circuit the need for a more specific term by occasionally checking your choices with the Problem List Calculator, or scanning the Facility List if a Preference List term is not adequately specific for the situation.

ICD-10 documentation specificity may include the following:
- Anatomical location and laterality (left, right, bilateral)
- Severity (mild, moderate, severe)
- Acuity (acute, sub-acute, chronic, acute and chronic, recurrent)
- Type of encounter (initial, subsequent, sequela)
- Associated or underlying conditions or diseases
- Complications

Problem List Calculator

- Generic (“non-specific”) terms trigger the Problem List Calculator.
- Providers are prompted for more details (modifier buttons), adding specificity.
- If a more specific term/modifier cannot be determined, “Unsure” may be selected.
- If your note was opened before updating the Problem List, “refresh” the Problem List link in your note to bring in the updated information (right click, select “Refresh SmartLink.”)