Creating the Assessment in ECW 11e

Smart Search in ECW 11e works pretty much the same way as it does in ECW 11. In the “Assessment” section of the note, make sure you have Smart Search selected and that you are using ICD 10.

Typing a diagnosis into the Smart Search box brings up the possible choices. When possible, choose a diagnosis with a RAF score (higher RAF scores = more complicated patients = more money from CMS to care for these complicated patients).

So if the patient has a BMI of 42 – choose morbid obesity rather than obesity as a diagnosis. Anyone who has been with Prima CARE for a few years has heard this a hundred times – but for those new to Prima CARE, pay attention to RAF scores.

Choosing the PL button at the right of the Smart Search box opens up the current problem list – you can add diagnoses from the problem list to the current assessment. Note that a checkmark in the “PL” column of the assessments means the diagnosis is already on the problem list...
OR will be automatically added to the problem list. Certain more significant diagnoses are coded to automatically populate the problem list. In ECW 11, unchecking the PL box at this point did not remove the problem from the problem list.

But in ECW 11e, if you uncheck the PL box in the assessment area, a popup asks whether you are sure you want to remove the diagnosis from the problem list – and if you hit “Remove”, it does delete CAD from the problem list.

Diagnoses in blue require further specificity. Clicking on the diagnosis opens a dialogue box with more specific options.

One advantage of having an accurate and meaningful problem list is that you don't have to repeat this process for this patient ever again – just choose the diagnosis from the problem list in the future.
You can pull a diagnosis into the assessment simply by clicking on the arrow next to the problem in the right panel. The red arrow indicates that the diagnosis has not been used in the past year – if this is a diagnosis that carries a RAF score (COPD carries a RAF score of 0.335), make sure to address the problem at least once during the year even if the patient is very stable. This is especially important for diagnoses you might not think to code every year (like amputations, a well functioning ileostomy, cerebral palsy, etc.).

Another potential time saver is to pull a diagnosis from previously used diagnoses. In my experience, this list tends to be so long as to not be that useful – but for certain low maintenance patients, it might be helpful.

A new feature in ECW 11e that can be a real time saver is diagnosis favorites. I have clicked on the options for sinusitis hundreds of times over the years – in 11e, I can make this a favorite by clicking on the yellow star.

And now I can click once instead of 5 times!

Brad Kney, MD
4/8/19