CLINICAL DOCUMENTATION IMPROVEMENT TIP OF THE MONTH

POISONING VS. ADVERSE EFFECT

Best Practice Documentation Includes the Following:

1. The circumstances, including substance taken (medication or other toxic substance) and any associated manifestations
   Example: MI secondary to recent cocaine use
2. Adverse effect vs. poisoning
3. Intent (accidental, self-harm, intentional assault, undetermined)

Best Practice Documentation Examples:

Poisoning:
- The patient intentionally took several benzodiazepines with alcohol in an attempted suicide, which caused acute hypoxic respiratory failure.

Adverse Effect:
- The patient took a dose of Lopressor that was prescribed correctly for her hypertension but resulted in a syncopal episode.

Contact the CDI Team with any Questions:
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