

Overview

There is no consensus that “PMH” is a term meant to be limited to specifically problems/conditions. This document goes over the various ways that different sources, organizations and offices label different types of data with “Past Medical History”.

One Physicians Call to end it from 2005:

[https://www.mayoclinicproceedings.org/article/S0025-6196\(11\)61981-2/abstract](https://www.mayoclinicproceedings.org/article/S0025-6196(11)61981-2/abstract)

“ The redundant expression *past medical history* (*PMH*), a staple of medical communication, appears often in conferences, admission notes, and presentations on teaching rounds. As someone who spent 6 years studying history, I found the introduction to this term in my second-year physical diagnosis course jarring. At my previous institution, even hospital forms included *PMH*. Although scholarly journals rarely, if ever, use the term *past medical history*, it has become entrenched in the lexicon of students, house staff, and practicing physicians.”

Sources citing PMH as “Entire Medical History” (or at least more than just conditions) -

Wikipedia.org:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Past_medical_history

“In a **medical** encounter, a **past medical history** (abbreviated **PMH**),^[1] is the **TOTAL SUM** of a patient's **health** status prior to **the presenting problem**.”

CMS.gov:

<https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Computer-Data-and-Systems/Electronic-Clinical-Templates/Downloads/HomeHealthClinicalTemplateF2FProgressNote21914.pdf>

C. Past Medical History

- C1. **Past Medical History** – What are the medical history factors that contribute to the patient’s home bound status?
 - C1a. List the patient’s co-morbid medical conditions and current medication

PMH as described by VCU.edu:

<https://ecurriculum.som.vcu.edu/portal/resources/2009/fcm1/Supplemental/Past%20Medical%20History.pdf>

The components of a complete PMH as described in Bates:

1. Childhood illnesses
2. Adult illnesses:
 - a. Medical illnesses
 - b. Surgeries
 - c. Obstetric/gynecologic
 - d. Psychiatric illnesses
3. Health maintenance:
 - a. Immunizations
 - b. Screening tests

University Neurosurgery at Rush:

<https://www.rush.edu/sites/default/files/2020-09/neurosurgery-patient-history-form.pdf>

Past Medical History

Height: <input type="text"/>	Please check each applicable diagnosis:	
Weight: <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Hypertension	<input type="checkbox"/> Heart disease
	<input type="checkbox"/> Liver disease	<input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, insulin dependent?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Kidney disease	<input type="checkbox"/> Cancer Type: <input type="text"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/> Thyroid disease

Other medical problems:

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>

Past surgeries & hospitalizations (Please include year and hospital):

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>

☐ Have you ever had a blood transfusion?

Sources citing PMH as “Just Conditions” -

HL7/FHIR:

<https://www.hl7.org/fhir/resourceguide.html>

Past Medical History	Diabetes, Congestive heart failure	Condition
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HL7 Example CDA Progress Note:

<https://confluence.hl7.org/display/CDA/Progress+Note>

Using “PMH” on section that other sources clearly mark as “**History of Past Illness**”:

<http://ccda.art-decor.org/ccda-html-20150727T182455/tmp-2.16.840.1.113883.10.20.22.2.20-2013-01-31T000000.html>

Usage on a Houston Methodist Form (you can find plenty of form examples similar to this out there):

https://www.houstonmethodist.org/-/media/Images/Services-Specialties/Transplant/your_med_history.ashx

Past Medical History-Please check all that apply, note date of onset.

<input type="checkbox"/> Unremarkable	<input type="checkbox"/> Coronary Heart Disease*	<input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis A *	<input type="checkbox"/> Renal Disease *
<input type="checkbox"/> Anemia *	<input type="checkbox"/> Crohn's Disease *	<input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis B *	<input type="checkbox"/> Rheumatoid Arthritis *
<input type="checkbox"/> Anxiety *	<input type="checkbox"/> C V A-Stroke *	<input type="checkbox"/> Hepatitis C *	<input type="checkbox"/> Seizure Disorder *
<input type="checkbox"/> Asthma *	<input type="checkbox"/> Dementia *	<input type="checkbox"/> HIV *	<input type="checkbox"/> Substance Abuse *
<input type="checkbox"/> Atrial Fibrillation *	<input type="checkbox"/> Depression *	<input type="checkbox"/> Hyperlipidemia *	<input type="checkbox"/> Thyroid Disease *
<input type="checkbox"/> Auto-Immune Disease *	<input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes*	<input type="checkbox"/> Hypertension *	<input type="checkbox"/> Tuberculosis *
<input type="checkbox"/> Biliary Cirrhosis *	<input type="checkbox"/> Diabetic Complications*	<input type="checkbox"/> Jaundice as newborn *	<input type="checkbox"/> Valvular Heart Disease *
<input type="checkbox"/> Bipolar Disorder *	<input type="checkbox"/> Diverticulosis*	<input type="checkbox"/> Jaundice in childhood *	<input type="checkbox"/> Weight Loss *
<input type="checkbox"/> Blood Transfusions *	<input type="checkbox"/> D V T *	<input type="checkbox"/> Liver Disease *	
<input type="checkbox"/> Breast Disease *	<input type="checkbox"/> G E R D *	<input type="checkbox"/> Myocardial Infarction *	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cancer *	<input type="checkbox"/> Gout*	<input type="checkbox"/> Obesity *	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cerebrovascular Disease *	<input type="checkbox"/> G I Bleed *	<input type="checkbox"/> Osteoarthritis *	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chronic Renal Failure *	<input type="checkbox"/> Heart-ASCVD*	<input type="checkbox"/> P U D *	
<input type="checkbox"/> C O P D *	<input type="checkbox"/> Heart-CHF*	<input type="checkbox"/> P V D *	
<input type="checkbox"/> Congenital Heart Disease *			

Webchart/Enterprise Health:

Up until changed to “Presenting Problems” on 11/20/2020:

Past medical history



- Hypertension
- CHF - Congestive heart failure
- Atrial fibrillation

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Problem List

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☒ Atrial fibrillation

☒ CHF - Congestive heart failure

☒ Hypertension

Past Problems

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New Presenting Problem

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☐ ADD - Attention deficit disorder

☐ ADHD - Attention deficit disorder with hyperactivity

☐ AIDS

☐ Alcohol abuse with unspecified alcohol-induced disorder