



Diseases of the Respiratory System

(J00-J99)

ICD-10-CM



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Rev. 02/17
63321MUPENABS 10/05/16

Diseases of the respiratory system are located in Chapter 10 of the ICD-10-CM code book; this chapter includes conditions such as asthma, pneumonia, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Reporting Respiratory Conditions

- Codes for reporting diseases of the respiratory system in ICD-10-CM feature relatively minor changes from ICD-9-CM. Most of the changes involve understanding the medical terminology that the more specific codes include, as well as, the new general coding structure and rules.
- At the beginning of Chapter 10 for Diseases of the Respiratory System (J00-J99), an instructional note states, “When a respiratory condition is described as occurring in more than one site and is not specifically indexed, it should be classified to the lower anatomic site.” For example, tracheobronchitis is classified to bronchitis with code J40.
- There are also chapter specific instructions for coding COPD and asthma, acute respiratory failure, influenza due to certain influenza viruses, as well as, some extra instructions added for ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP).
- Some codes have been expanded requiring coders to:
 - **Use additional code to identify**
 - The infectious agent
 - The virus
 - Other conditions such as tobacco use or exposure
 - **Code first**
 - Any associated lung abscess
 - The underlying disease

Asthma (J45)

- The codes in categories J44 (other COPD) and J45 (asthma) differentiate between uncomplicated cases and those in acute exacerbation. An acute exacerbation is deteriorating or decompensation of a chronic condition, it is not equal to an infection superimposed on a chronic condition. However, an exacerbation may be generated by an infection.
- In order to code asthma correctly, the physician must document the severity of the asthma and/or describe the frequency. Terms used to define asthma have been enhanced to reflect the current clinical classification. These terms include:
 - Intermittent asthma which is defined as less than or equal to two occurrences per week

- Persistent asthma which includes 3 levels of severity:
 - **Mild:** more than two times per week
 - **Moderate:** daily and may restrict physical activity
 - **Severe:** throughout the day with recurrent severe attacks limiting the ability to breathe
- The 4th character indicates severity and the 5th identifies whether status asthmaticus or exacerbation is present.

Asthma	ICD-10-CM Description
Category J45	Asthma
	Includes allergic: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Asthma – Bronchitis NOS – Rhinitis with asthma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atopic asthma • Extrinsic allergic asthma • Hay fever with asthma • Nonallergic asthma
J45.2-	Mild intermittent asthma
<i>J45.20</i>	Uncomplicated
<i>J45.21</i>	With (acute) exacerbation
<i>J45.22</i>	With status asthmaticus
J45.3-	Mild persistent asthma
<i>J45.30</i>	Uncomplicated
<i>J45.31</i>	With (acute) exacerbation
<i>J45.32</i>	With status asthmaticus
J45.4-	Moderate persistent
<i>J45.40</i>	Uncomplicated
<i>J45.41</i>	With (acute) exacerbation
<i>J45.42</i>	With status asthmaticus
J45.5-	Severe persistent
<i>J45.50</i>	Uncomplicated
<i>J45.51</i>	With (acute) exacerbation
<i>J45.52</i>	With status asthmaticus
J45.90-	Unspecified asthma Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asthmatic bronchitis NOS • Childhood asthma NOS • Late onset asthma
<i>J45.901</i>	Unspecified asthma with (acute) exacerbation
<i>J45.902</i>	Unspecified asthma with status asthmaticus
<i>J45.909</i>	Unspecified asthma, uncomplicated
J45.99-	Other asthma
<i>J45.990</i>	Exercise induced bronchospasm
<i>J45.991</i>	Cough variant asthma
<i>J45.998</i>	Other asthma

Bronchitis	ICD-10-CM Description
J40	Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic Includes Bronchitis: – NOS – With tracheitis NOS – Catarrhal • Tracheobronchitis NOS
J41.-	Simple & mucopurulent chronic bronchitis
<i>J41.0</i>	Simple chronic bronchitis
<i>J41.1</i>	Mucopurulent chronic bronchitis
<i>J41.8</i>	Mixed simple & mucopurulent chronic bronchitis
J42	Unspecified chronic bronchitis Includes Chronic: • Bronchitis NOS • Tracheitis • Tracheobronchitis

Emphysema	ICD-10-CM Description
Category J43	Emphysema
J43.0	Unilateral pulmonary emphysema [MacLeod's syndrome] Includes: • Swyer-James syndrome • Unilateral emphysema • Unilateral hyperlucent lung • Unilateral pulmonary artery functional hypoplasia • Unilateral transparency of lung
J43.1	Panlobular emphysema Includes: Panacinar emphysema
J43.2	Centrilobular emphysema
J43.8	Other emphysema
J43.9	Emphysema, unspecified Includes Emphysema (lung) (pulmonary): – NOS – Bullous – Vesicular • Emphysematous bleb

Other Chronic Respiratory Diseases	ICD-10-CM Description
Category J44	Other COPD Includes: • Asthma with COPD • Chronic bronchitis: – Asthmatic (obstructive) – Emphysematous – With airway obstruction – With emphysema • Chronic obstructive: – Asthma – Bronchitis – Tracheobronchitis
<i>J44.0</i>	COPD with acute lower respiratory infection
<i>J44.1</i>	COPD with (acute) exacerbation, unspecified
<i>J44.9</i>	COPD, unspecified includes: • Chronic obstructive – Airway disease NOS – Lung disease NOS
Category J47	Bronchiectasis
<i>J47.0</i>	Bronchiectasis with acute lower respiratory infection
<i>J47.1</i>	Bronchiectasis with (acute) exacerbation
<i>J47.9</i>	Bronchiectasis, uncomplicated

Reporting Tobacco Exposure/Use

- Documentation should detail whether the patient had exposure to second-hand smoke, a history of tobacco dependence, or is a current tobacco user.
- “Use additional code” notes are included to identify any tobacco exposure and/or use:

Tobacco Exposure and Use	
Z77.22	Exposure to environmental tobacco smoke
P96.81	Exposure to tobacco smoke in the perinatal period
Z87.891	Personal history of nicotine dependence
Z57.31	Occupational exposure to environmental tobacco smoke
F17.-	Nicotine dependence
Z72.0	Tobacco use

- Nicotine is an exception to the pattern of use (i.e., use, abuse, dependence) for psychoactive substances, as only dependence is recognized. According to AHA Coding Clinic, a diagnosis of “smoker” is coded as nicotine dependence.

Unspecified codes are available for use when detail in the medical record is insufficient to assign a more specific diagnosis. An unspecified code should not be assigned if a specific diagnosis has been determined.

4. Under category F17 for nicotine dependence, there are the following options to identify tobacco type:

Code	Nicotine Dependence
F17.20-	unspecified
F17.21-	cigarettes
F17.22-	chewing tobacco
F17.22-	other tobacco product

5. Category F17 includes a 6th character to further specify any associated disorders with nicotine dependence:

6 th Character	Disorder
0	uncomplicated
1	in remission
3	with withdrawal
8	with other nicotine-induced disorders
9	with unspecified nicotine-induced disorders

Coding Examples

- A. Patient has mild asthma that recurs once or twice a week, but does not impede physical activity.

ICD-10-CM: Mild intermittent asthma, uncomplicated (J45.20)

- B. Patient with chronic laryngitis. This patient is a long-time, cigarette smoker.

ICD-10-CM: Chronic laryngitis (J37.0) and nicotine dependence, cigarettes, uncomplicated (F17.210)

- C. Patient presents with acute bronchitis and COPD.

ICD-10-CM: COPD with acute lower respiratory infection (J44.0) and acute bronchitis (J20.9)

References

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