Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma

Documentation and coding: Individual & Family Plans

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For coding education questions, email CignaHealthcareHCPEducation@CignaHealthcare.com.

It's important to accurately document and code diagnoses when submitting claims for your patients with Cigna Healthcare-administered coverage. This helps ensure your diagnosis and coding practices comply with all applicable legal requirements,[1] while enabling us to provide our customers with the benefits and resources they need. For additional information and resources, visit the Cigna Healthcare Individual & Family Plans page at CignaforHCP.com/IFP.

The information that follows is designed to provide guidance for the documentation and coding of claims for your patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. It is not meant to replace your judgment when caring for your patients.

Definition

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) refers to a group of diseases that cause airflow blockage and breathing-related problems.[2]

Asthma is a disease that affects the lungs with episodes of wheezing, difficulty breathing, and coughing.[2,3]

General guidance

- At each visit, evaluate and manage COPD and asthma with a treatment plan.
- Document diagnostic statements that are compatible with the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD-10-CM) nomenclature.
- An additional code is needed for the type of asthma when there is a specified type of asthma with COPD.
- Use tobacco-use status and nicotine-dependence status using the ICD-10-CM codes below, if applicable (see last chart).
- Link diagnoses when appropriate.
- Document medications to support the diagnosis of COPD and asthma.

Asthma

ICD-10 code	Description	Additional character
J45.2-	Mild intermittent	(-) Add 5th character: 0 – uncomplicated 1 – acute exacerbation 2 – status asthmaticus
J45.3-	Mild persistent	(-) Add 5th character: 0 – uncomplicated 1 – acute exacerbation 2 – status asthmaticus
J45.4-	Moderate persistent	(-) Add 5th character: 0 – uncomplicated 1 – acute exacerbation 2 – status asthmaticus

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1 Diagnosis inaccuracies that are not addressed can result in administrative sanctions and potential financial penalties.
2 "About COPD." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 15 May 2024. Retrieved from https://www.CDC.gov/COPD/about/.
3 "About Asthma." CDC. 22 January 2024. Retrieved from https://www.CDC.gov/asthma/about/index.html.

Asthma *(continued)*

ICD-10 code	Description	Additional character
J45.90-	Unspecified asthma (e.g., asthmatic bronchitis NOS, childhood asthma NOS, late-onset)	(-) Add 6th character: 1 – acute exacerbation 2 – status asthmaticus 9 – uncomplicated
J45.990	Exercise-induced asthma	
J45.991	Cough variant asthma	
J45.998	Other asthma	

Other respiratory conditions

ICD-10 code	Description	Documentation and coding tips
J41.0	Simple chronic bronchitis	
J41.1	Mucopurulent chronic bronchitis	
J41.8	Mixed simple and mucopurulent chronic bronchitis	
J42.0	Unspecified chronic bronchitis • Chronic bronchitis NOS • Chronic tracheitis • Chronic tracheobronchitis	
J43.0	Unilateral pulmonary emphysema [MacLeod's syndrome] • Swyer-James syndrome • Unilateral emphysema • Unilateral pulmonary artery functional hypoplasia • Unilateral transparency	Use additional code to identify: • Tobacco dependence (F17.-). • Tobacco use (Z72.0). • History of tobacco dependence (Z87.891). • Exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (Z77.22). • Occupational exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (Z57.31).
J43.1	Panlobular emphysema • Panacinar emphysema	
J43.2	Centrilobular emphysema	
J43.8	Other emphysema	
J43.9	Emphysema, unspecified • Bullous emphysema (lung)(pulmonary) • Emphysema (lung) (pulmonary)(NOS) • Emphysematous bleb • Vesicular emphysema (lung)(pulmonary)	
J44.0	COPD with acute lower respiratory infection	Use additional code to identify: • The infection. • Type of asthma, if applicable (J45.-).
J44.1	COPD with (acute) exacerbation • Decompensated COPD • Decompensated COPD with (acute) exacerbation	Use additional code to identify: • Type of asthma, if applicable (J45.-).
J44.9	COPD, unspecified • Chronic obstructive airway disease NOS • Chronic obstructive lung disease NOS • Chronic bronchitis with airway obstruction	*Excludes lung diseases due to external agents.* Use additional code to identify: • Type of asthma, if applicable (J45.-).
J96.10	Chronic respiratory failure, unspecified whether with hypoxia or hypercapnia	
J96.11	Chronic respiratory failure with hypoxia	
J96.12	Chronic respiratory failure with hypercapnia	
J98.2	Interstitial emphysema	Use additional code to identify: • Tobacco dependence (F17.-). • Tobacco use (Z72.0). • History of tobacco dependence (Z87.891). • Exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (Z77.22). • Occupational exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (Z57.31).
J98.3	Compensatory emphysema	

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Nicotine dependence and tobacco use status

ICD-10 code	Description	Additional character
F17.20-	Nicotine dependence, unspecified	(-) Add 6th character:
F17.21-	Nicotine dependence, cigarettes	0 – uncomplicated 1 – in remission
F17.22-	Nicotine dependence, chewing tobacco	3 – with withdrawal
F17.29-	Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product	8 – with other nicotine-induced disorders 9 – with unspecified nicotine-induced disorders
Z72.0	Tobacco use NOS	
Z87.891	Personal history of nicotine dependence	

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