

## Coding & Documentation<sup>1</sup>

Address all conditions that coexist at the time of the encounter that require or affect patient care, treatment or management. Document to the highest degree and code to the highest specificity. Include the ICD-10 code on the claim.

| Condition Categories  |   |  |   |  |   |   |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| Category J40  | Category J41  | Category J42   | Category J43  | Category J44   | Category J45  | Category J47                                |
| Bronchitis, NOS   | Simple Chronic Bronchitis   | Unspecified Chronic Bronchitis   | Emphysema   | Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)   | Asthma  | Bronchiectasis                              |
| Not specified as acute or chronic, unspecified  | Non-obstructive, mucopurulent   | Obstructive, sub-acute inflammation of bronchial tubes<br><i>Type of COPD. Do not code with J44.</i>                     | Obstructive, damage of alveoli or alveolar walls<br><i>Type of COPD. Do not code with J44.</i>  | Loss of elasticity of the bronchial tree, damage to alveolar walls, thickening of the bronchial wall   | Airway inflammation and constriction/obstruction  | Persistent abnormal dilation of the bronchi |
| Specificity   |   |  |   |  |   |   |
| ICD-10 code assignment depends on documented detail that should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific diagnosis</li> <li>• Severity, frequency or complication</li> <li>• Condition status</li> <li>• Coexisting and/or underlying conditions</li> <li>• Causal relationships</li> </ul> | Category J44.0  | Category J44.1   | Category J44.0 & J44.1  | Categories J44.- & J45.-   | Category J41.0  |   |
|   | COPD with Acute Lower Respiratory Infection   | COPD with Acute Exacerbation   | COPD with Acute Exacerbation & Acute Lower Respiratory Infection  | COPD with Asthma   | Smoker's Cough  |   |
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes acute bronchitis</li> <li>• Code the infection if possible</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decompensated COPD</li> <li>• Acute exacerbation of condition itself</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Code both conditions if they exist together</li> <li>• Code the infection if applicable</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use additional code to identify the type of asthma</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Found in the ICD-10 alphabetic index</li> <li>• Must be specifically documented</li> </ul> |   |

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/10cmguidelines-FY2021.pdf>

| MEAT <sup>2</sup> — Supporting Detail  |   | Code Also  |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| <b>Active Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Medications reviewed and are current.”</li> <li>• “The patient is seeing a specialist.”</li> <li>• “Occurrence of/ no recent onset of exacerbation.”</li> </ul> | <b>Current Condition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Patient has moderate persistent asthma with no recent onset of exacerbation.”</li> <li>• “Patient uses albuterol inhaler as needed for COPD.”</li> </ul> | <b>Test Results</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must interpret result and include significance</li> <li>• Diagnosis not supported by simple reference of diagnostic study</li> </ul> <p><i>“COPD noted on CXR” is an example of insufficient documentation of test results.</i></p> | <b>Supplemental Oxygen</b> <p><b>Use of long-term supplemental oxygen regardless of the duration of use each day.<sup>3</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dependence on supplemental oxygen, Z99.81 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supplemental</li> <li>• Continuous</li> <li>• Nocturnal</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Use of respirator or ventilator for life support—will not live without it.<sup>4</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dependence on respirator [ventilator] status, Z99.11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respiratory device/equipment</li> <li>• Home respirator/ventilator</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <b>Contributing Factors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental exposure to tobacco smoke, Z77.22</li> <li>• Occupational exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, Z57.31</li> <li>• Tobacco dependence, Z17.–</li> <li>• Tobacco use, Z72.0</li> </ul> |
|  |   |  |  | <b>Other</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-term (current) use of inhaled steroids</li> <li>• Long-term (current) use of systemic steroids</li> </ul>   |

NOTE: The information listed here is not all-inclusive and should be used as a reference only. For official guidelines, please refer to the [ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting \(PDF\)](#).

**For additional resources, contact our provider relations team at [Providers@ARHealthWellness.com](mailto:Providers@ARHealthWellness.com)**

<sup>2</sup> Monitor, evaluate, assess/address, treat

<sup>3</sup> AHA Coding Clinic, 2002, Q4, Status V codes

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0063006/>