

Hierarchical Condition Category (HCC) coding of pulmonary disease

Winter's cold and flu season often leads to exacerbations of chronic pulmonary diseases in patients with these conditions. This makes it a good time to review documentation and coding recommendations that support the International Classification of Diseases-10 CM (ICD 10) codes for pulmonary diseases. ICD 10 codes and their descriptions are noted on the table below. When documenting a patient's condition, indicate the diagnosis and applicable additional descriptors as specifically as possible. Then include the patient's status and treatment plan for management.

Diagnosis

ICD 10 CM code	Diagnosis code description	Additional descriptors
J41	Simple & mucopurulent chronic bronchitis	Specify the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple • Mucopurulent • Mixed
J42	Unspecified chronic bronchitis	
J43	Emphysema	Specify as applicable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unilateral • Panlobular • Centrilobular
J44	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	As applicable, clarify if the condition includes any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute lower respiratory infection • Exacerbation • Bronchiolitis obliterans • Bronchiolitis obliterans syndrome
J45	Asthma	Specify the following as applicable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severity - mild, moderate, or severe • Frequency - intermittent or persistent With any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute exacerbation • Status asthmaticus • Exercise-induced bronchospasm • Cough variant
J47	Bronchiectasis	Specify the following as applicable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncomplicated • With acute exacerbation • With lower respiratory infection

J84	Fibrosis, lung or pulmonary	Specify the following as applicable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition is idiopathic • Associated with other interstitial diseases with fibrosis (specify other conditions) • Associated with other interstitial lung disease of childhood
J96	Respiratory failure	Specify as applicable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute • Chronic • Acute and chronic • With hypoxia or hypercapnia
Z99.81	Dependence on supplemental oxygen	Specify the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The diagnosis causing dependence • Whether the patient has chronic respiratory failure
Z48.24	Lung transplant status	Specify the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date of transplant • Any complications

Status

Indicate the following as applicable:

- Is the condition stable? or What is its severity?
- Is it with or without exacerbation?
- Is it with acute bronchitis or other respiratory infection?
- What is the infectious organism, if known?
- What are the findings on examination and diagnostic studies?
- Does the patient have hypercapnia or hypoxia?
- Are comorbid conditions being affected by the pulmonary status or its treatment?

Treatment

Document all treatments being used, including the following:

- Specialty care – referral to or management by a specialist
- Medications – indicate drug and condition it is treating
- Oxygen therapy – Does the patient require oxygen? Document and code acute and chronic respiratory failure when they exist
- Pulmonary rehabilitation

Consider the patient's comorbid conditions

Document and code patient comorbid conditions that impact care and decision-making in the patient's management. These conditions may be associated with HCC coding and have an impact on the patient's risk score. Common diagnoses that may be considered include the following:

- Diabetes mellitus type 1 or 2
 - Does the condition impact decision making related to use of steroids or other medications?
 - Do you caution the patient to monitor glucose for elevation due to illness or steroid use?
 - Do you provide a plan to the patient to manage glucose fluctuations?
- Kidney disease (specify type of renal disease or stage of chronic kidney disease)
 - Does renal disease influence antibiotic and other medication choices used to treat the patient's pulmonary disease?
- Liver disease (specify type of liver disease)
 - Does liver disease influence antibiotic or other medication choices used to treat the patient's pulmonary disease?

Tobacco

Many diagnoses that fall into the pulmonary HCC categories request documentation and coding of the patient's tobacco use, dependence, exposure to or history of tobacco dependence.

Additional Information about HCC coding is available on the Security Health Plan provider website at <https://www.securityhealth.org/providers/hcc>.