

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.
- 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-CM⁴ codes below, if applicable (see below).

ICD-10 code	Description	Additional codes to use
F17.20-	Nicotine dependence, unspecified	Use 6th character for specificity of dependence or in remission
F17.21-	Nicotine dependence, cigarettes	
F17.22-	Nicotine dependence, chewing tobacco	
F17.29-	Nicotine dependence, other tobacco product	
Z72.0	Tobacco use NOS	
Z87.891	Personal history of nicotine dependence	

- Link diagnoses when appropriate.
- Document medications to support the diagnosis of COPD and asthma.

Asthma

Mild intermittent	Mild persistent	Moderate persistent	Severe persistent
J45.2-	J45.3-	J45.4-	J45.5



5th character

0 = Uncomplicated	1 = Acute exacerbation	2 = Status asthmaticus
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Example: J45.21

Mild intermittent asthma with acute exacerbation

ICD-10 code	Description
J45.901	Unspecified asthma (e.g., asthmatic bronchitis NOS, childhood asthma NOS, late-onset asthma with acute exacerbation)
J45.902	Unspecified asthma (e.g., asthmatic bronchitis NOS, childhood asthma NOS, late-onset asthma with status asthmaticus)
J45.909	Unspecified asthma, uncomplicated (asthma NOS)
J45.990	Exercise-induced asthma
J45.991	Cough variant asthma
J45.998	Other asthma

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma

ICD-10 code	Description	Additional information	Additional codes to use
J41.0	Simple chronic bronchitis		Use additional code to identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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)
J41.1	Mucopurulent chronic bronchitis		
J41.8	Mixed simple and mucopurulent chronic bronchitis		
J42.0	Unspecified chronic bronchitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronic bronchitis NOS • Chronic tracheitis • Chronic tracheobronchitis 	
J43.0	Unilateral pulmonary emphysema [MacLeod's syndrome]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swyer-James syndrome • Unilateral emphysema • Unilateral pulmonary artery functional hypoplasia • Unilateral transparency 	
J43.1	Panlobular emphysema	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panacinar emphysema 	
J43.2	Centrilobular emphysema		
J43.8	Other emphysema		
J43.9	Emphysema, unspecified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullous emphysema (lung)(pulmonary) • Emphysema (lung) (pulmonary)(NOS) • Emphysematous bleb • Vesicular emphysema (lung)(pulmonary) 	
J44.0	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with acute lower respiratory infection		Use additional code to identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The infection • Type of asthma, if applicable (J45.-)
J44.1	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with (acute) exacerbation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decompensated COPD • Decompensated COPD with (acute) exacerbation 	Use additional code to identify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of asthma, if applicable (J45.-).
J44.9	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, unspecified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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		

1 Diagnosis inaccuracies that are not addressed can result in administrative sanctions and potential financial penalties.
 2 "What is COPD?" Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). 30 June 2023. Retrieved from <https://www.CDC.gov/copd/index.html>.
 3 "Asthma." CDC. 22 May 2023. Retrieved from <https://www.CDC.gov/asthma/default.htm>.
 4 International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification.

