

Documentation and Coding: Pneumonia

CMS-HCC_V28 Model Updates

October 2023

At Healthfirst, we are committed to helping providers accurately document and code their patients' health records. This tip sheet is intended to assist providers and coding staff with the documentation and **ICD-10-CM selection, along with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Hierarchical Condition Category (HCC) Version 28 Model Updates**, on services submitted to Healthfirst—specifically for **pneumonia**. It provides information from industry sources about proper coding practice. However, this document does not represent or guarantee that Healthfirst will cover and/or pay for services outlined. Coverage decisions are based on the terms of the applicable evidence of coverage and the provider's participation agreement. This includes the determination of any amounts that Healthfirst or the member owes the provider.

ICD-10-CM Codes and Descriptions

ICD-10-CM	Description
J15 (HCC)	Bacterial pneumonia not elsewhere classified
J15.0	Pneumonia due to Klebsiella pneumoniae
J15.1	Pneumonia due to Pseudomonas
J15.20	Pneumonia due to staphylococcus, unspecified
J15.211	Pneumonia due to Methicillin susceptible Staphylococcus aureus
J15.212	Pneumonia due to Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus
J15.29	Pneumonia due to other staphylococcus
J15.5	Pneumonia due to Escherichia coli
J15.6	Pneumonia due to other Gram-negative bacteria
J15.8	Pneumonia due to other specified bacteria

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Clinical Documentation Tips

Type	Document the type of pneumonia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bacterial ▪ Viral
Status of condition	Stable, improved, and/or worsening, resolved
Causative organism	Document the causative organism, the specific organism that caused the pneumonia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E. coli (J15.5) ▪ Pseudomonas (J15.1) ▪ Influenza viruses A and B (J10.0*) ▪ Parainfluenza virus (J12.2) ▪ Adenovirus (J12.0) ▪ Respiratory syncytial virus (J12.1) ▪ Klebsiella (J15.0) ▪ Staphylococcus aureus (J15.2*) ▪ Streptococcus (J15.3, J15.4)
Related conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Influenza ▪ Respiratory failure
Do not	Do not use term "history of" if a patient still has an active infection
Tobacco use	Past or present tobacco use (F17–F17.299)
Medication resistance	Specify medication
Treatments	Antibiotics, penicillin, oxygen therapy, respiratory therapy, oral rehydration therapy, IV fluids

*Requires additional digits to complete code.

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Coding Example

Question	Does the instructional note providing sequencing guidance at code J44.0 , Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with acute lower respiratory infection, apply also to ventilator-associated pneumonia?
AHA Coding Clinic Rationale	<p>No, the instructional note “Use additional code to identify the infection,” at code J44.0 does not apply to ventilator-associated pneumonia. The ICD-10-CM code for ventilator-associated pneumonia does not fall into the “respiratory infection” codes category. Code J95.851, Ventilator-associated pneumonia, is under the section titled “Intraoperative and postprocedural complications and disorders of respiratory system, not elsewhere classified.”</p> <p>Assign codes J44.9, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, unspecified, and J95.851, Ventilator-associated pneumonia, for a patient with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and ventilator-associated pneumonia. Sequencing will depend on the circumstances of admission. For example, if the reason for admission is the ventilator-associated pneumonia, code J95.851 would be sequenced as principal diagnosis.</p> <p>Source: <i>AHA Coding Clinic (Volume 4, First Quarter, Number 1 2017)</i></p>

Questions?

Contact us at #Risk_Adjustments_and_clinical_Documentation@healthfirst.org.

For additional documentation and coding guidance, please visit the coding section at HFproviders.org.

References

- [ICD-10-CM Official Coding Guidelines, FY 2024](#)
- [Coding Clinic Advisor](#)