



COPD: Documentation and Coding Tips

In ICD-10-CM, COPD is an umbrella term that includes chronic bronchitis, emphysema, and chronic asthma. Specific ICD-10-CM codes are available to specify the condition as either uncomplicated or in acute exacerbation.

ICD-10-CM	Description	HCC
J41.0	Simple chronic bronchitis (smokers' cough)	111
J44.0*	COPD with acute lower respiratory infection	111
J44.1*	COPD with (acute) exacerbation	111
J44.9*	COPD, unspecified	111
J96.1-	Chronic respiratory failure • 0=unspecified, 1=with hypoxia, 2=with hypercapnia	84
J96.2-	Acute and chronic respiratory failure • 0=unspecified, 1=with hypoxia, 2=with hypercapnia	84
R05	Cough	Not a HCC
Z99.81	Dependence on supplemental (long-term) oxygen	Not a HCC
J45.-**	Asthma (mild, moderate, severe; intermittent or persistent); acute exacerbation or status asthmaticus	Not a HCC

When documenting COPD, specify:

Type: For example, asthma with COPD – also document the asthma by severity, frequency and level of exacerbation; chronic asthmatic bronchitis, chronic obstructive bronchitis, chronic bronchitis with emphysema, and chronic obstructive tracheobronchitis.

Severity: Acute exacerbation, acute-on-chronic exacerbation or chronic respiratory failure.

Co-morbidities that can complicate COPD: Such as, but not limited to, pulmonary artery disease, malnutrition, diabetes, cardiac disease, hypertension, heart failure, coronary artery disease (CAD) and lung cancer.

> If the patient has COPD or other disease such as cystic fibrosis or a lung injury, also document:

- If the patient is on oxygen (Z99.81)
- If the patient has chronic respiratory failure (J96.10)

Infection: Any lower acute lower respiratory infection and the infectious agent, if known.

Cause: Identify any additional lung disease due to external agent and specify agent (for example, organic dust, chemical, gases, fumes, vapors, ventilation system, etc.).

Tobacco use/Exposure: Any related tobacco use, abuse, dependence, past history, or exposure (second hand, occupational, etc.).