BlueCross BlueShield of Oklahoma

DOCUMENTATION AND CODING

Asthma and Asthma-Associated Conditions

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are 5.8 million office visits every year in the U.S. for asthma. Accurately and completely coding and documenting asthma, asthma-associated conditions and treatments helps capture our members' health status and promote continuity of care. Below is information for outpatient and professional services from the ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting.

Coding for Asthma and Asthma-Associated Conditions

- Most asthma codes under **J45.**- describe the condition as **"uncomplicated"**, "with acute exacerbation" or "with status asthmaticus."
- All **known treatments and complications** should be documented.
- A code from **Z79.5-** indicates the patient's long-term (current) use of inhaled steroids and systemic steroids such as prednisone and dexamethasone.
- A statement of "**History of**" indicates the condition is resolved. Avoid using the phrase "history of" for members with active conditions or current treatment.
- When applicable, capture the following codes:
  - Eosinophilic asthma (J82.83)
  - Exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (Z77.22)
  - Exposure to tobacco smoke in the perinatal period (P96.81)
  - History of tobacco dependence (Z87.891)
  - Occupational exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (Z57.31)
  - Tobacco dependence (F17.-)
  - Tobacco use (Z72.0)

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

5th Character		
0 = Uncomplicated	1 = Acute exacerbation	2 = Status asthmaticus

Example: J45.41
Moderate persistent asthma with (acute) exacerbation

Additional Sample ICD-10-CM Codes for Asthma, Associated Conditions and Treatments	
Unspecified asthma (Asthmatic bronchitis NOS) (Allergic bronchitis NOS)	6th J45.90-
Unspecified asthma with (acute) exacerbation	J45.901
Unspecified asthma with status asthmaticus	J45.902
Unspecified asthma, uncomplicated	J45.909
Other asthma	6th J45.99-
Exercise induced bronchospasm	J45.990
Cough variant asthma	J45.991
Other asthma	J45.998
Unspecified asthma with COPD (Chronic obstructive asthma) (Chronic asthmatic obstructive bronchitis)	J44.89
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder	J44.9
Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic	J40
Long-term (current) use of inhaled steroids	Z79.51
Long-term (current) use of systemic steroids	Z79.52

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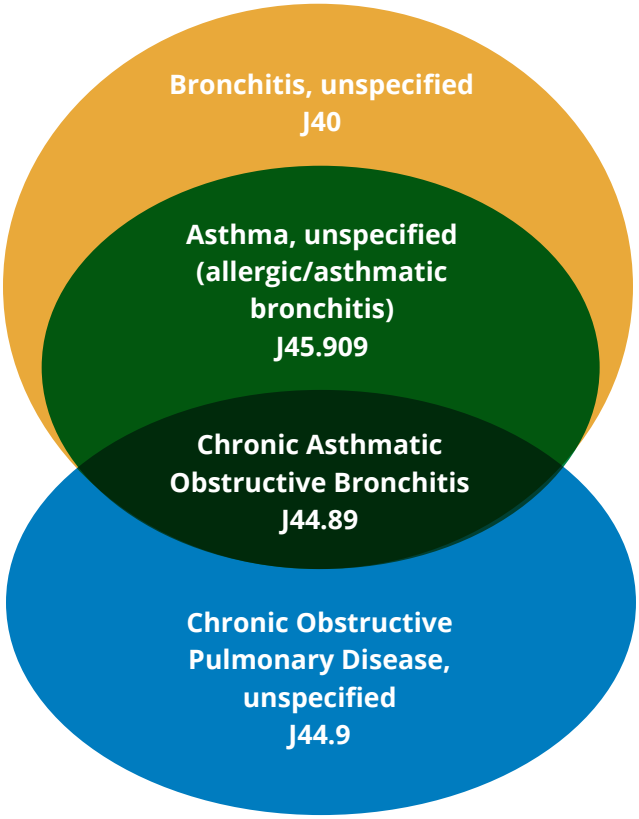
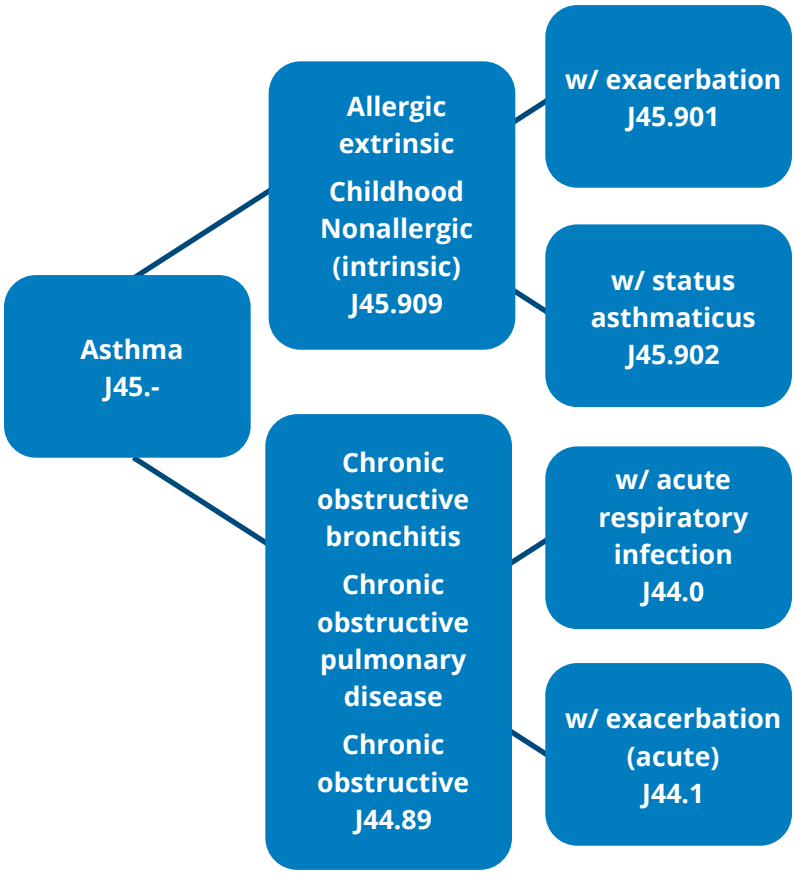
When Asthma Intersects with Bronchitis or COPD

- The code **J44.89** for COPD includes **asthma *and* COPD**. Use an additional code to specify the **type of asthma** or **an asthma exacerbation** when documented. Do **not** assign **unspecified asthma, uncomplicated (J45.909)** as it is not considered a type of asthma.
- The code assignment for **unspecified bronchitis without asthma is J40**. The code assignment changes when both asthma and bronchitis are present and varies further with **acuity** and **obstruction**.





Tips to Consider

- Include patient demographics, such as name, date of birth and date of service in all progress notes.
- Document legibly, clearly and concisely.
- Ensure providers **sign and date** all documents.
- Document how each diagnosis was **monitored, evaluated, assessed and/or treated** on the date of service.
- Document of the patient's **active treatment** for any past or present diagnosis to help improve continuity of care. This provides a broader scope of conditions impacting member care.
- Note complications with an **appropriate treatment plan**.
- Take advantage of the Annual Health Assessment or other **yearly preventative exam** as an opportunity to capture conditions impacting member care.

Resources

- ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting, Chapter 10: Diseases of the Respiratory System (J00-J99) and Chapter 21: Factors Influencing Health Status and Contact with Health Services (Z00-Z99)