Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

J44.0 Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with (acute) lower respiratory infection

Code also:
- to identify the infection

**Coding Tip:** Assign a code from J44.0 when a patient has both a condition classifiable to J44 and a diagnosis of a lower respiratory tract infection. An additional code should be assigned to report the infection. If the physician confirms both a diagnosis of a lower respiratory tract infection and exacerbation of the condition classifiable to J44, both J44.1 and J44.0 should be assigned, followed by a code for the specific lower respiratory infection. Lower respiratory infections include pneumonia, bronchitis, and bronchiolitis. AHA: 3Q 2016, 15-16
AHA: 1Q 2017, 26
AHA: 2Q 2017, 30
AHA: 4Q 2017, 75

J44.1 Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with (acute) exacerbation

Decompensated COPD
Decompensated COPD with (acute) exacerbation

**Excludes 2:** chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) with acute bronchitis (J44.0) lung diseases due to external agents (J60-J70)

**Coding Tip:** Documentation: Do not assign J44.1 unless the physician has confirmed that the condition is exacerbated. An exacerbation may not be assumed without physician confirmation, and changes in treatment and medication regimen do not presume an exacerbation.
AHA: 1Q 2016, 36
AHA: 3Q 2016, 15-16
AHA: 1Q 2017, 26
AHA: 4Q 2017, 75

J44.9 Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, unspecified

Chronic obstructive airway disease NOS
- Chronic obstructive lung disease NOS

**Excludes 2:** lung diseases due to external agents (J60-J70)
AHA: 4Q 2013, 109, 129
AHA: 4Q 2014, 21
AHA: 1Q 2016, 36-37
AHA: 1Q 2017, 24
AHA: 1Q 2017, 25
AHA: 4Q 2017, 76
AHA: 4Q 2017, 76

Section I.C.10.a

The codes in categories J44 and J45 distinguish between uncomplicated cases and those in acute exacerbation. An acute exacerbation is a worsening or a decomposition of a chronic condition. An acute exacerbation is not equivalent to an infection superimposed on a chronic condition, though an exacerbation may be triggered by an infection.

**Coding Tip:** When the physician reports chronic obstructive asthma or chronic asthmatic bronchitis, and the type of asthma is specified, an additional code from category J45 - should be reported.
AHA: 1Q 2017, 26
AHA: 2Q 2017, 30
AHA: 4Q 2017, 76

### AHA: Chapter 10: Diseases of the Respiratory System

#### J45 Asthma

- allergic (predominantly) asthma
- allergic bronchitis NOS
- allergic rhinitis with asthma
- atopic asthma
- extrinsic allergic asthma
- hay fever with asthma
- idiopathic asthma
- intrinsic nonallergic asthma
- nonallergic asthma

**Use additional code to identify:**
- eosinophilic asthma (J82.53)
- exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (Z77.22)
- exposure to tobacco smoke in the perinatal period (P96.81)
- history of tobacco dependence (Z77.891)
- occupational exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (Z57.31)
- tobacco dependence (F17.2-)
- tobacco use (Z72.0)

**Excludes 1:**
- detergent asthma (J69.8)
- eosinophilic asthma (J82)
- miner's asthma (J60)
- wheezing NOS (R06.2)
- wood asthma (J67.8)

**Excludes 2:**
- asthma with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (J44.9)
- chronic asthmatic (obstructive) bronchitis (J44.9)
- chronic obstructive asthma (J44.9)

#### Section I.C.10.a

The codes in categories J44 and J45 distinguish between uncomplicated cases and those in acute exacerbation. An acute exacerbation is a worsening or a decomposition of a chronic condition. An acute exacerbation is not equivalent to an infection superimposed on a chronic condition, though an exacerbation may be triggered by an infection.

**Coding Tip:** Assign J43.9 with a code from J45 for emphysema, COPD and asthma. (AHA: 1Q 2019)

**Coding Tip:** Documentation: When reporting a code from category J45 - do not report the condition as exacerbated without physician confirmation of the diagnosis. An exacerbation may not be assumed without physician confirmation, and changes in treatment and medication regimen do not presume an exacerbation.
AHA: 1Q 2019, 27

### Asthma

- **Mild intermittent asthma**
- **Mild intermittent asthma, uncomplicated**
- **Mild intermittent asthma with acute exacerbation**
- **Mild intermittent asthma with status asthmaticus**
- **Mild persistent asthma**