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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

- The codes in categories **J44** and **J45** distinguish between uncomplicated cases and those in acute exacerbation.
- All **known treatments and complications** should be documented.
- A code from **Z79.5x** 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. Don't document "History of" for members with active conditions or current treatment.

Sample ICD-10-CM Codes for Asthma, Associated Conditions and Treatments	
Mild intermittent asthma	J45.2-
Mild persistent asthma	J45.3-
Moderate persistent asthma	J45.4-
Severe persistent asthma	J45.5
Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic	J40
Asthma with bronchitis	J45.901
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder (COPD) (includes unspecified asthma with COPD)	J44.9
Long-term (current) use of inhaled steroids	Z79.51
Long-term (current) use of systemic steroids	Z79.52

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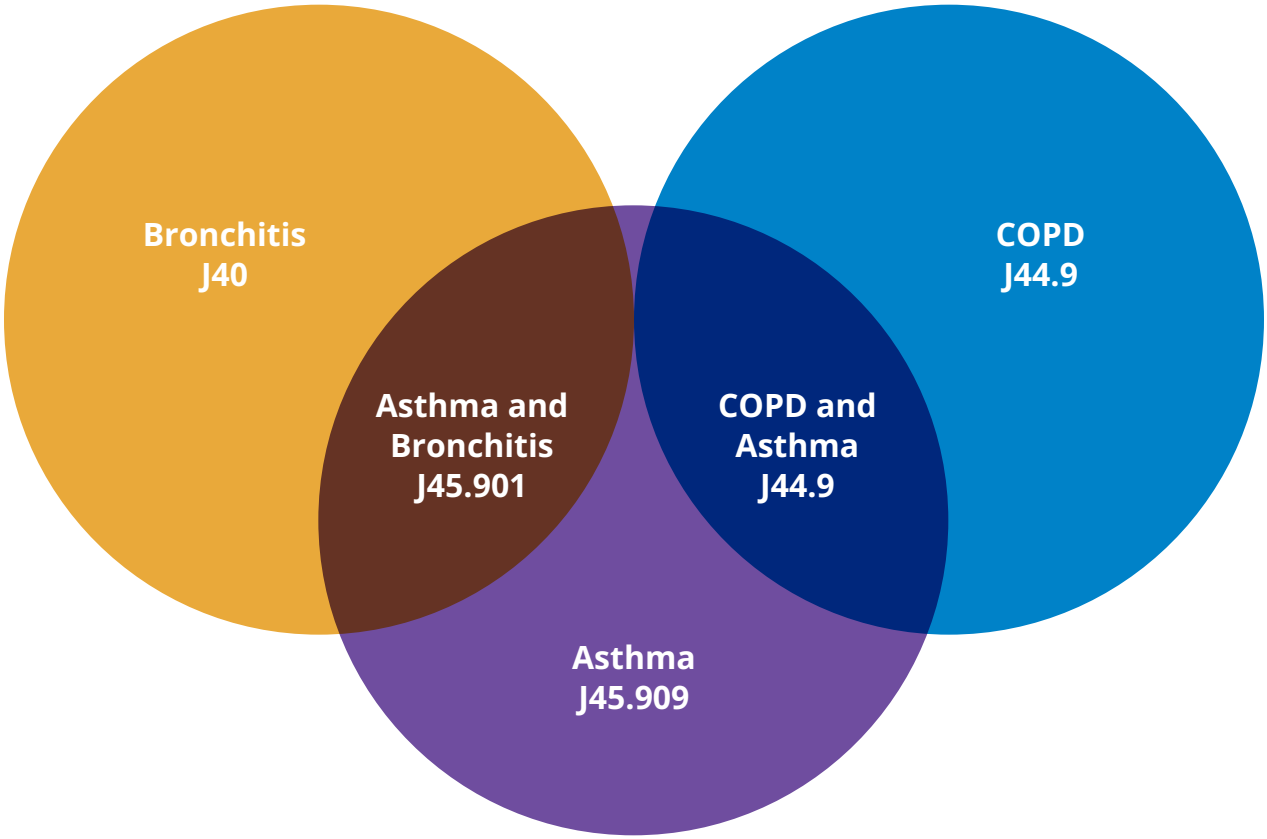
When Asthma Intersects with Bronchitis or COPD

- The code **J44.9** for COPD includes **asthma *and* COPD**.
- **Asthma *and* bronchitis (J45.901)** is a different code than bronchitis **(J40)**.



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 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)

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