



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

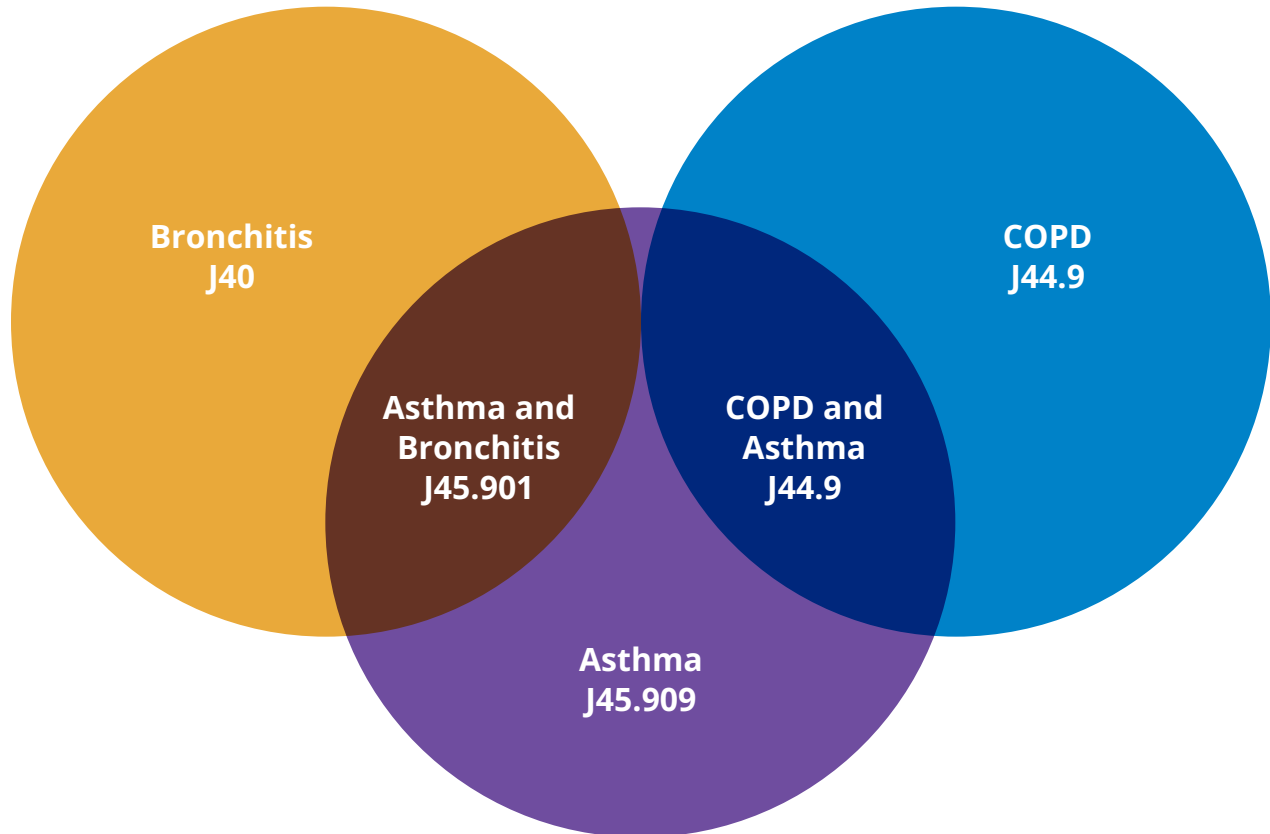
- The codes in categories **J44** and **J45** distinguish between uncomplicated cases and those in acute exacerbation.
- All **known treatments and complications** should be documented.
- A code from **Z79.5x** indicates the patient's long-term (current) use of inhaled steroids and systemic steroids 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



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)