

HPO Coding Advisory: Unspecified Pneumonia in COVID 19 cases

Effective from 6th April 2020

Ref (CA1- 060420)

In response to queries the HPO have sought clinical and classification clarification on the appropriate coding of unspecified pneumonia in COVID 19 positive cases. In addition to the advice below please refer also to ICS 22X2 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

This advice does not apply where a specific type of pneumonia is documented; in such cases please assign a code for that specific type of pneumonia.

COVID 19 Positive with unspecified pneumonia:

Where only the term “pneumonia” is documented without any further specificity in COVID 19 positive patients please code as:

J12.8 Other viral pneumonia

And

B97.2 Coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified to other chapters to identify the infectious agent (as this adds specificity to the type of viral pneumonia and would be normal coding practice)

And

U07.1 Emergency use of U07.1 [COVID-19, virus identified] (this is a flag code to identify the COVID-19 pandemic)

Clinical and classification advice supports the coding of unspecified pneumonia as viral without documentation where the patient is COVID 19 positive.

COVID 19 Clinically diagnosed or probable with unspecified pneumonia:

For patients suspected of COVID 19 but where there is no laboratory confirmation with documentation of pneumonia without any further specificity do not make the assumption that the pneumonia is viral. In these cases assign the following codes:

J18.9 Pneumonia, unspecified

B97.2 Coronavirus as the cause of diseases classified to other chapters to identify the infectious agent

And

U07.2 Emergency use of U07.2 (COVID-19, virus not identified) to identify cases documented as clinically diagnosed COVID-19 but laboratory testing is inconclusive, not available or unspecified.

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