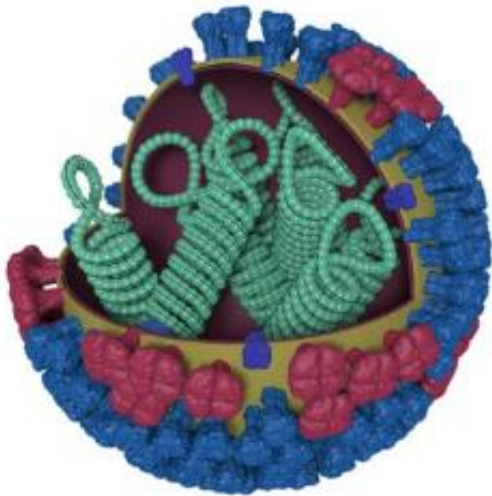


CIOX CODING TIP

Influenza news...

As of January 11, 2020, the CDC estimates that 13-18 million people have been sick with the flu this season, 5.9-8.5 million people have visited a medical professional, and 120,000 to 210,000 patients have been hospitalized for the 2019-2020 flu season. These numbers are up from the prior flu season.

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/burden/preliminary-in-season-estimates.htm>



Guideline Alert

J09-J10



In summary of the official coding guidelines, Code categories J09-J10 are only to be used for confirmed cases of identified strains of influenza viruses.

“Confirmation” does not require a positive laboratory testing for avian or other novel influenza A or other identified influenza virus. However, it can be based on the providers diagnostic statement.

Please note that terms of uncertainty if used, such as, “suspected”, “possible”, “probable” avian influenza or novel influenza are assigned a code from J11, influenza due to unidentified influenza virus and not codes from J09-J10.

Influenza A

Per Coding Clinic, 3rd Quarter, 2016, p. 10-11 describes that seasonal influenza A (J10.1) should not be confused with “novel” A influenza (J09.X-). The J09.X category is intended for a specific strain of influenza A (“Novel”) and not to be utilized for the ordinary seasonal influenza A.

Bacterial Pneumonia, Influenza A, and COPD Exacerbation

Per Coding Clinic, 4th Quarter, 2017, p. 96 describes that code J10.08, Influenza due to other identified influenza virus with other specified pneumonia; J44.0 Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with acute lower respiratory infection; J15.9, Unspecified bacterial pneumonia; and code J44.1, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with (acute) exacerbation should be assigned for a patient that presents with combination of these respiratory conditions. Sequencing would be based on the circumstances of admission and sequencing guidelines.