

CIOX CODING TIP

Influenza news...

As of January 11, 2019, the CDC estimates that 6-7 million people have been sick with the flu this season, 2.9-3.5 million people have visited a medical professional, and 69,000 to 84,000 patients have been hospitalized so far for the 2019-2019 flu season

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



<https://ulmhawkeyeonline.com/22330/feature-stories/influenza-virus-troubles-continue-statewide/#photo>

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.

Sepsis from influenza with pneumonia

Per Coding Clinic, 3rd Quarter, 2016, p.11-12 describes that code A41.89, other specified sepsis and J11.00, Influenza due to unidentified influenza virus with unspecified pneumonia should be assigned for sepsis due to influenza with pneumonia.



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