Asthma Quick Reference for ICD-10-CM

The coding of asthma has expanded in ICD-10-CM. In order for the most appropriate code to be assigned at the highest level of specificity, documentation must include severity and complication.

In ICD-10-CM, asthma is located under category J45. It is subcategorized by severity. The subcategories are:

J45.2- Mild intermittent
J45.3- Mild persistent
J45.4- Moderate persistent
J45.5- Severe persistent
J45.9- Other and unspecified asthma

The subcategories are further broken down by complication:

- Uncomplicated
- With acute exacerbation
- With status asthmaticus

The codes are as follows:

J45.20 **Mild intermittent** asthma, **uncomplicated**

J45.21 **Mild intermittent** asthma with (acute) **exacerbation**

J45.22 **Mild intermittent** asthma with **status asthmaticus**

J45.30 **Mild persistent** asthma, **uncomplicated**

J45.31 **Mild persistent** asthma with (acute) **exacerbation**

J45.32 **Mild persistent** asthma with **status asthmaticus**

J45.40 **Moderate persistent** asthma, **uncomplicated**

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J45.41 **Moderate persistent** asthma with (acute) **exacerbation**

J45.42 **Moderate persistent** asthma with **status asthmaticus**

J45.50 **Severe persistent** asthma, **uncomplicated**

J45.51 **Severe persistent** asthma with (acute) **exacerbation**

J45.52 **Severe persistent** asthma with **status asthmaticus**

J45.901 **Unspecified** asthma with (acute) **exacerbation**

J45.902 **Unspecified** asthma with **status asthmaticus**

J45.909 **Unspecified** asthma, **uncomplicated**

J45.990 Exercise induced bronchospasm

J45.991 Cough variant asthma

J45.998 Other asthma

EXAMPLE:

Paula presents to the clinic for an urgent visit. She is wheezing and short of breath. She has severe persistent asthma. She reported using her rescue inhaler but her symptoms are persisting. She cannot complete sentences without stopping for breaths. Two nebulizer treatments were given in the office to the patient with no relief. She is admitted to the hospital with status asthmaticus.

J45.52 Severe persistent asthma with status asthmaticus

EXAMPLE:

Jake presents with his mother for evaluation of his asthma. She says he wakes up a couple nights every month with "coughing fits" and using his inhaler on a weekly basis. He is currently taking Singulair nightly to help with his symptoms. His activities have been somewhat limited due to his symptoms. He is diagnosed with mild persistent asthma.

J45.30 Mild persistent asthma, uncomplicated

In order to assist with determining the severity of a patient's asthmatic condition, the following graph may be utilized. It was designed by the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute.

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Asthma Severity Chart

	INTERMITTENT	MILD PERSISTENT	MODERATE PERSISTENT	SEVERE PERSISTENT
SYMPTOMS	2 or less days per week	More than 2 days per week	Daily	Throughout the day
NITGHTTIME AWAKENINGS	2 x's per month or less	3 – 4 x's per month	More than once per week but not nightly	Nightly
RESCUE INHALER USE	2 or less days per week	More than 2 days per week, but not daily	Daily	Several times per day
INTERFERENCE WITH NORMAL ACTIVITY	None	Minor limitation	Some limitation	Extremely limited
LUNG FUNCTION	FEV1>80% predicted and normal between exacerbations	FEV1>80% predicted	FEV1 60 – 80% predicted	FEV1 less than 60% predicted

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