

Risk Coding Tips and Tools Acute and Chronic Respiratory Failure

Documentation requirements for acute and chronic respiratory failure:

1. **Specify the acuity of the respiratory failure:**
 - Acute
 - Chronic
 - Acute and chronic
 - Postprocedural
2. **Identify the type of respiratory failure:**
 - With hypoxemia
 - With hypercapnia
3. **Types of treatment:**
 - Medication
 - Oxygen therapy
 - Pulmonary rehabilitation
4. **Document any underlying condition that causes respiratory failure:**
 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
 - Pulmonary fibrosis
 - Cystic fibrosis
 - Pneumonia
 - Spinal cord injuries

Physician Documentation Example

Example 1: 

Diagnosis: Hypoxemia (No mapping to CMS-HCC crosswalk):

A 65-year-old male presents with COPD, shortness of breath and cough. Physical exam shows acute exacerbation of COPD and O2 at 92% with supplemental oxygen.

Example 2: 

Diagnosis: Chronic Hypoxemic Respiratory Failure (Maps to a CMS-HCC):

A 65-year-old male with a history of severe COPD presents with progressively worsening dyspnea and chronic cough. Physical exam shows acute exacerbation of COPD and O2 at 92% with supplemental oxygen.

Reference:

Premera BCBS of Alaska. (2002). *Acute and chronic respiratory failure*. Premera.com. <https://www.premera.com/documentation>

You can find this resource and others like it in the OHN Risk Coding Corner at
www.OrlandoHealth.com/Network/Resources.

You can also contact us at RiskCoding@OrlandoHealth.com for additional questions or support needs.