

Aspiration Pneumonia

Background

Certain clinical terms for pneumonia do not provide adequate risk adjustment or accurately capture the patient's severity of illness. Terms such as Community Acquired Pneumonia (CAP) or Healthcare Associated Pneumonia (HCAP) are captured as "simple pneumonias". Other terms such as aspiration pneumonia are captured as "complex pneumonias," which are expected to have a higher cost of care and length of stay.

Simple Pneumonia	ICD 10 code	Complex Pneumonia	ICD 10 code
Community Acquired Pneumonia (CAP)	J18.9, Pneumonia Unspecified	Aspiration Pneumonia	J69.0, Pneumonitis due to inhalation of food and vomit

Aspiration pneumonia should be considered when the patient has any of the following risk factors:

- Dysphagia
- Failed swallow study
- RLL pneumonia
- Advanced age
- Nursing home resident
- Alcoholism
- CVA
- Degenerative neurologic disorder (Parkinson's, etc.)

If the patient is on antibiotics to treat suspected aspiration, make sure to document the term "aspiration pneumonia."

- Flagyl
- Clindamycin
- Zosyn