

Chronic Respiratory Failure

Did you know?

Chronic Respiratory Failure is more common than you think.

Criteria:

1. Continuous (24/7) home oxygen therapy (not just overnight)

Note: No need to demonstrate hypoxemia as oxygen therapy only covered by insurance for home use if specific hypoxemia requirements have previously been met

2. Normal serum pH with a pCO₂ > 50 mmHg (i.e. – chronic compensation on an ABG)

Note: An elevated serum bicarbonate level on a BMP indicates a compensatory metabolic alkalosis which may be due to a chronic respiratory acidosis (i.e. – **the patient likely meets the criteria for chronic respiratory failure!**)

3. Home ventilator usage with tracheostomy

Not Sick No Severity	CC (Sick) Moderate Severity	MCC (Very Sick) Maximal Severity
On home O ₂	Chronic Respiratory Failure	Acute on Chronic Respiratory Failure

The cause(s) of the respiratory failure should be stated, such as:

- COPD
- Interstitial lung diseases
- Obesity Hypoventilation Syndrome
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Muscular Dystrophies
- Pulmonary Hypertension
- Spinal cord injuries

Clinical Language that is <i>not</i> effective for coding purposes	Highly effective language that will support metrics
COPD on home oxygen	COPD with chronic respiratory failure, on home oxygen