Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

Western Australian Coding Rule

0812/03 Pneumonia with multiple organisms

Q.

When sputum grows multiple organisms, e.g. *Pseudomonas* and *E. coli,* do you code individual pneumonia codes: J15.5 *Pneumonia due to Escherichia coli*, J15.1 *Pneumonia due to Pseudomonas*? Or J18.9 *Pneumonia, unspecified* and the 2 organisms as infections as the cause of disease classified elsewhere?

A.

ACS 1004 *Pneumonia* states 'When only 'pneumonia' is documented without supporting x-ray evidence…assign the appropriate code for pneumonia. Microbiological reports, particularly sputum and blood cultures, will describe the organism (if any) thought to be the cause'. Pneumonia is coded by the look up, Pneumonia in (due to). More than one type of pneumonia in can be coded.

DECISION

If a clinical diagnosis of pneumonia is made, microbiological reports, sputum and blood cultures will describe the organism thought to be the cause. Pneumonia is coded via the index lookup; pneumonia in (due to). More than one type of pneumonia can be coded.

[Effective 15 Aug 2012, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 7th Ed.]

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