

# Finding & assigning the appropriate influenza codes

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# Influenza Guidelines

Code only confirmed cases of influenza due to certain identified influenza viruses (category J09), and due to other identified influenza virus (category J10).

In this context, “confirmation” does not require documentation of positive laboratory testing specific for avian or other novel influenza A or other identified influenza virus. However, coding should be based on the provider’s diagnostic statement that the patient has avian influenza, or other novel influenza A, for category J09, or has another particular identified strain of influenza, such as H1N1 or H3N2, but not identified as novel or variant, for category J10.

If the provider records “suspected” or “possible” or “probable” avian influenza, or novel influenza, or other identified influenza, then the appropriate influenza code from category J11, Influenza due to unidentified influenza virus, should be assigned. A code from category J09, Influenza due to certain identified influenza viruses, should not be assigned nor should a code from category J10, Influenza due to other identified influenza virus. **[Section I.C.10.c]**

# J10/J11 Add'l Characters

	Descriptor
.00	... with unspecified type of pneumonia
.08	... with specified pneumonia
.1	... with other respiratory manifestations
.2	... with gastrointestinal manifestations
.81	... with encephalopathy
.82	... with myocarditis
.83	... with otitis media
.89	... with other manifestations

\*J10.01 identifies Influenza ... with the same other identified influenza virus pneumonia

# Influenza Coding Tips

- Chapter 10 diagnoses must “use an additional code” where applicable to identify: exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (Z77.22), exposure to tobacco smoke in the prenatal period (P68.81), history of tobacco dependence (Z87.891), occupational exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (Z57.31), tobacco dependence (F17.-) or tobacco use (Z72.0).
- Influenza itself is not considered a lower respiratory infection for the purposes of coding COPD with J44.0. However, if influenza results in pneumonia, code the COPD as J44.0, and the influenza. Sequence according to the focus of care.
- For influenza-associated pneumonia, only use an additional code for the pneumonia if the specific type of pneumonia is documented. Pneumonia codes J12 thru J18 have tabular instructions to “code first” associated influenza, if applicable.
- Viral gastroenteritis is sometimes identified as intestinal flu and is not coded as a gastrointestinal tract manifestation of the novel influenza A virus, but is reported with a code from the infectious disease chapter.