



Western Australian Coding Rule

0615/06 Weaning and counting of noninvasive ventilation

Q.

When a patient is being weaned from noninvasive ventilation by temporarily ceasing the ventilation for a short period of time or their ventilation is temporarily ceased for meals, should the time that the patient is not ventilated be included in the calculation of total noninvasive ventilation hours? I.e. should the calculation of hours be from initiation to complete cessation or should the periods where the patient is not receiving any ventilation be subtracted from the total hours?

A.

Noninvasive ventilation (NIV) is used in treatment of patients with severe acute respiratory distress such as in exacerbation of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or acute pulmonary oedema. Weaning NIV involves ceasing ventilation for a short period of time in each 24 hour period, with the time without NIV increasing gradually. Weaning of noninvasive ventilation is different to weaning of invasive ventilation because it involves ceasing ventilation for a period of time before recommencing it. Weaning of invasive ventilation involves changing to a different (usually less invasive) method of ventilation.

ACS 1006 *Ventilatory support* contains guidelines for counting of ventilation hours and coding of weaning.

Point 1d in the *Classification* section talks about coding of methods of weaning, however this point refers to weaning of invasive ventilation by using another method of ventilation, not weaning of NIV where ventilation is ceased during weaning.

Point 1c instructs coders how to calculate ventilation when it is temporarily ceased: “a period of ≤ 1 hour between cessation and then restarting ventilatory support should be accounted for in the duration, i.e. continue counting the duration”. Therefore, if the noninvasive ventilation is ceased for more than one hour, the period when the patient is not ventilated should not be counted.

DECISION

When noninvasive ventilation is ceased for a period of time, whether for weaning or for the patient to complete activities of daily living, Point 1c in ACS 1006 *Ventilatory support* should be followed. That is, if ventilation is ceased for 1 hour or less, this time should be included in the total number of ventilation hours. If ventilation is ceased for more than one hour, this time should NOT be included in the total number of ventilation hours.

[Effective 24 Jun 2015, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 8th Ed.]