



Western Australian Coding Rule

0725/67 Pneumonia with multiple organisms

Q.

How are multiple organisms coded when found on microbiology testing for pneumonia (e.g. *E. coli* and *Pseudomonas*)?

A.

A code from block B95-97 *Bacterial and viral agents as the cause of diseases classified to other chapters* is used to classify an infectious agent, however if an infectious agent is inherent in an ICD-10-AM code, then a code from B95-B97 isn't assigned.

For pneumonia with *E. coli* and *Pseudomonas* identified in microbiology testing, assign both J15.5 *Pneumonia due to Escherichia coli* and J15.1 *Pneumonia due to Pseudomonas* via Alphabetic Index:

Pneumonia

...
- in (due to)
...
- - Escherichia coli (E. coli) J15.5
...
- - Pseudomonas NEC J15.1

Assignment of multiple different pneumonia codes is compliant with *Conventions used in the ICD-10-AM Tabular List/5. Double coding*.

DECISION

A code from block B95-97 *Bacterial and viral agents as the cause of diseases classified to other chapters* is used to classify an infectious agent, however when an infectious agent is inherent in an ICD-10-AM code then a code from B95-B97 isn't assigned. Assignment of multiple different pneumonia codes is compliant with *Conventions used in the ICD-10-AM Tabular List/5. Double coding*

This WA Coding Rule 0725/67 *Pneumonia with multiple organisms* supersedes WA Coding Rule 0812/03 *Pneumonia with multiple organisms*.

This Rule has been modified to improve clarity; and to correspond with an update in ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Twelfth Edition.

Effective 1 July 2025, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 13th Ed.

As per the Patient Activity Data Policy (MP 0164/21) Western Australian Coding Rules must be followed.



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 (due to)' 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.]