Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Western Australian Coding Rule

0611/03   Infective asthma

Q.

What is the correct code assignment for "infective asthma" or "infective exacerbation of asthma"?

A.

Infective asthma is coded J45.9 *Asthma unspecified.* If a separate infection such as a chest infection or pneumonia is documented, this should be coded as an additional diagnosis. When the infective component is not specified, it is inappropriate to add a code such as J98.8 *Other specified respiratory disorders* (infection, respiratory tract, unspecified) as it does not add any further specificity and also it is an assumption the infection is in the respiratory tract when it could be a systemic viral infection.

DECISION
Infective asthma is coded J45.9 *Asthma unspecified.* If a separate infection such as a chest infection or pneumonia is documented, this should be coded as an additional diagnosis.

[Effective 15 Jun 2011, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS 7th Ed.]

better health • better care • better value