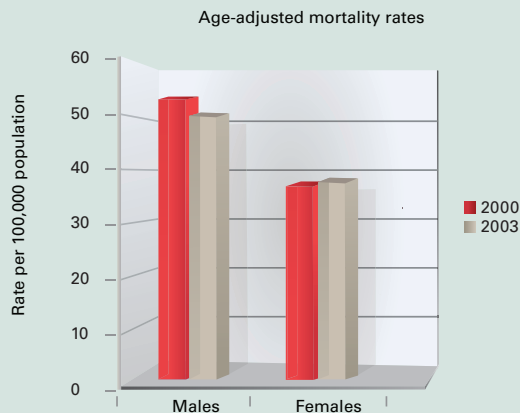


# Focus on: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

## QUICK FACTS

- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), which currently represents the fourth leading cause of death worldwide, is expected to become the third leading cause of death by 2020.<sup>1</sup>
- Among individuals 65 years of age and older, chronic lower respiratory diseases were the underlying cause of death for 106,845 individuals (2006 data).<sup>2</sup>
- COPD accounts for 19.9% of total hospitalizations for patients 65 to 75 years of age, and 18.2% of total hospitalizations for patients who are ≥ 75 years of age.<sup>3</sup>
- The prevalence of COPD in the Medicare FFS population is estimated to be 10.9% (2005 data).<sup>4</sup>

Age-adjusted mortality rates have declined for males, but have remained unchanged for females from 2000 to 2003



## DOCUMENTATION TIPS <sup>5,6</sup>

COPD (**496**) is a nonspecific code that should only be used when documentation does not specify the type, and should not be used with any other COPD code.

Obstructive chronic bronchitis (**491.2x**) necessitates a 5th digit requiring specific documentation to indicate with or without acute exacerbation, or with acute bronchitis:

- Documentation must support a worsening or decompensation of the COPD condition itself to validate as an acute exacerbation.

Chronic obstructive asthma (**493.2x**) necessitates a 5th digit requiring specific documentation to indicate with or without the presence of status asthmaticus or acute exacerbation.

## Coding Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD):

<b>491.0</b>	Simple Chronic Bronchitis
<b>491.1</b>	Mucopurulent Chronic Bronchitis
<b>491.20</b>	Obstructed Chronic Bronchitis w/o Exacerbation
<b>491.21</b>	Obstructed Chronic Bronchitis w/ (Ac) Exacerbation
<b>491.22</b>	Obstructed Chronic Bronchitis w/ (Ac) Bronchitis
<b>491.8</b>	Chronic Bronchitis, Other

<b>491.9</b>	Chronic Bronchitis, Unspecified
<b>492.8</b>	Emphysema, NOS
<b>493.20</b>	Chronic Obstructed Asthma, Unspecified
<b>493.21</b>	Chronic Obstructed Asthma w/ Status Asthmaticus
<b>493.22</b>	Chronic Obstructed Asthma w/ (Ac) Exacerbation
<b>496</b>	Chronic Airway Obstruction (COPD), NEC

## CODING HIGHLIGHTS <sup>7</sup>

- Dependence on respirator/ventilator, status (**V46.11**)
- Supplemental oxygen (V46.2)  
Long-term oxygen therapy

Codes **V46.11** and **V46.2** are intended to be used as secondary diagnoses. Be sure to report first the specific condition that you are treating as the primary diagnosis along with the status code, (e.g. hypoxemia - **799.02** and supplemental oxygen - **V46.2**).

<sup>1</sup> Cote, CG, Bartolome CR. "Predictors of mortality in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease." *Clin Chest Med* 28 (2007) 515-524

<sup>2</sup> Heron, Ph.D., Melonie. "Deaths: Leading Causes for 2006." *National Vital Statistics Reports* 58.19 (2010): 22. 31 Mar. 2010. Web. 27 Sept. 2010. <[http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr58/nvsr58\\_14.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr58/nvsr58_14.pdf)>.

<sup>3</sup> Nazir, SA et al. "Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in the older patient." *Clin Chest Med* 28 (2007) 703-715

<sup>4</sup> Schneider, KM et al. "Prevalence of multiple chronic conditions in the United States' Medicare population." *Health and Quality of Life Outcomes* 2009, 7:82. <<http://www.hqlo.com/content/7/1/82>>

<sup>5</sup> *AHA Coding Clinic* (1984). *Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) guidelines*. 2nd Quarter.

<sup>6</sup> *2011 Coders' Desk Reference for Diagnosis*. Alexandria, VA: Ingenix, p. 429-433.

<sup>7</sup> *AHA Coding Clinic* (2005). *Asphyxia and hypoxemia*. 4th Quarter