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.]