Western Australian Coding Rule

0615/04 Mucus plug with bronchiectasis

Q.
Should a mucus plug be coded with bronchiectasis?

A.
Mucus plugging is common in bronchiectasis, however it is not always present in every patient who has bronchiectasis.

If a mucus plug in a patient with bronchiectasis meets the criteria in ACS 0002 Additional diagnoses it should be coded to T17.x Foreign body in respiratory tract, W80.8 Inhalation and ingestion of other objects causing obstruction of respiratory tract, other specified object and appropriate place of occurrence and activity codes.

Mucus plugs may meet the criteria in ACS 0002 Additional diagnoses in a number of ways, most commonly when suctioning is performed to remove the plug. Coders should look for documentation of an intervention being linked to the mucus plug.

DECISION

If a mucus plug in a patient with bronchiectasis meets the criteria in ACS 0002 Additional diagnoses (such as suctioning to remove the plug) it should be coded.

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