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

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.]

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