
Documentation Dissection

Respiratory Failure Intubation

Endotracheal Intubation, emergency procedure

Patient with history of COPD presented with decreased mental status and decreased respiratory effort. Breath sounds were diminished throughout and **Pulse ox reading was 82%** ^[1] on 100% non-rebreather.

Procedure Note: Secondary to the patient's decreased mental status and need for securing her airway, she **was emergently intubated** ^[2]. She was given 20 mg of etomidate after she was pre-oxygenated. With the MAC blade, I was able to easily see the vocal cords and was able to pass a **7-0 ET tube** ^[3]. There was good color change on the capnometer, good breath sounds bilaterally, was taped in place at 22 at the lip. The patient tolerated the procedure well. There are no complications.

Final Diagnosis: **Acute respiratory failure with hypoxia due to acute COPD exacerbation** ^[4]

^[1] The pulse ox reading is an indication of hypoxia.

^[2] Procedure performed emergently.

^[3] Endotracheal tube inserted.

^[4] Final diagnosis is used for coding.

What CPT® and ICD-10-CM codes are reported?

CPT® Code: 31500

ICD-10-CM Codes: J96.01, J44.1

Rationales:

CPT®: This note illustrates an emergent airway procedure in which the patient developed respiratory failure due to COPD exacerbation. In the CPT® Index locate Intubation/Endotracheal Tube – 31500. Code 31500 identifies an emergency endotracheal intubation.

ICD-10-CM: In ICD-10-CM Alphabetic Index locate Failure/respiration, respiratory/acute/with/hypoxia J96.01. The Tabular List verifies J96.01 is used for acute respiratory failure with hypoxia. To code an acute COPD exacerbation, locate Disease/pulmonary/chronic obstructive/with/exacerbation (acute) J44.1. The Tabular List verifies J44.1 is used for Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease with (acute) exacerbation.