

Internal Medicine Coding Alert

Reader Question: Breathing Treatments

Question: How do I code for a nebulizer breathing treatment?

Ohio Subscriber

Answer: The correct code for a nebulizer breathing treatment is 94640 (nonpressurized inhalation treatment for acute airway obstruction). The code 94664 (aerosol or vapor inhalations for sputum mobilization, bronchodilation, or sputum induction for diagnostic purposes; initial demonstration and/or evaluation) is used to move sputum or induce sputum for diagnostic purposes.

Answers for Reader Questions were given by **Kathy Pride, CPC**, coding supervisor for the Martin Memorial Medical Group, a 57-physician group practice in Stuart, Fla.