



## SECTION 17 – PULMONOLOGY

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➤ [Asthma](#)

## ASTHMA

### Background

This case definition was developed by the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center (AFHSC) for the purpose of epidemiological surveillance of a condition important to military-associated populations.

### Clinical Description

Asthma is a respiratory syndrome characterized by airflow obstruction that varies markedly, both spontaneously and with treatment. Asthmatics demonstrate a special type of inflammation in the airways, which leads to excessive narrowing with consequent reduced airflow and symptomatic wheezing and dyspnea. Narrowing of the airways is usually reversible, but in some patients with chronic asthma there may be an element of irreversible airflow obstruction.<sup>1</sup>

### Case Definition and Incidence Rules

For surveillance purposes, a case of asthma is defined as:

- *One inpatient medical encounter* with any of the defining diagnoses of asthma in *any* diagnostic position (see ICD9 code list below); or
- *Two outpatient medical encounters* with any of the defining diagnoses of asthma in *any* diagnostic position (see ICD9 code list below).

#### **Incidence rules:**

For individuals who meet the case definition:

- The incidence date is considered the date of the first inpatient or outpatient medical encounter that includes a diagnosis of asthma.
- An individual is considered an incident case only once.

#### **Exclusions:**

- None.

<sup>1</sup> Braunwald, E., Fauci, A., Longo, D. et al. 2008. *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine*. 17<sup>th</sup> ed. United States: McGraw-Hill Professional.



## Codes

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The following ICD9 codes are included in the case definition:

Condition	ICD-9-CM codes	CPT Codes
Asthma	493.00-.02 (extrinsic asthma) 493.10-.12 (intrinsic asthma) 493.20-.22 (chronic obstructive asthma) 493.81-.82 (other forms of asthma) 493.90-.92 (asthma, unspecified)	

## Development and Revisions

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The case definition and incidence rules for asthma were developed and reviewed by the AFHSC Medical Surveillance Monthly Report (MSMR) staff for the MSMR article referenced below.<sup>2</sup>

## Reports

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None.

## Review

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Oct 2010	Case definition reviewed and adopted by AFHSC Surveillance Methods and Standards work group.
Jul 2009	Case definition developed for MSMR.

## Comments

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None.

<sup>2</sup> Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center. *Asthma, active component, U.S. Armed Forces, 1999-2008*. Medical Surveillance Monthly Report (MSMR). 2009 July; Vol. 16(7): 5-9.

