

Billing & Coding for Specific IgE Serum Lab Tests

Effective diagnosis of allergic diseases relies on thorough documentation and precise coding, particularly for specific IgE (sIgE) laboratory tests. The use of incorrect ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes may result in payers denying coverage for these tests.

Recommendations for Selecting ICD-10-CM Codes

- Choose ICD-10-CM codes that **capture the highest degree of specificity**.
- Do **not** use Z codes Z00.00 and Z00.01, as **these often fail to meet payer requirements** for coverage.
- When medically appropriate, **consider applying multiple codes** to support the laboratory order.

Be mindful of Excludes1 and Excludes2 notes, which may prevent certain codes from being accepted by payers. (Examples on back)

Food	
J30.5	Allergic rhinitis due to food
L27.2	Dermatitis due to ingested food
T78.01XA	Anaphylactic reaction due to peanuts, initial encounter
T78.02XA	Anaphylactic reaction due to shellfish (crustaceans), initial encounter
T78.03XA	Anaphylactic reaction due to other fish, initial encounter
T78.04XA	Anaphylactic reaction due to fruits and vegetables, initial encounter
T78.05XA	Anaphylactic reaction due to tree nuts and seeds, initial encounter
T78.070A	Anaphylactic reaction due to milk and dairy products with tolerance to baked milk, initial encounter
T78.071A	Anaphylactic reaction due to milk and dairy products with reactivity to baked milk, initial encounter
T78.080A	Anaphylactic reaction due to egg with tolerance to baked egg, initial encounter
T78.081A	Anaphylactic reaction due to egg with reactivity to baked egg, initial encounter
T78.09XA	Anaphylactic reaction due to other food products, initial encounter

Upper Respiratory Disease	
H10.45	Other chronic allergic conjunctivitis
J30.0	Vasomotor rhinitis
J30.1	Allergic rhinitis due to pollen
J30.2	Other seasonal allergic rhinitis
J30.81	Allergic rhinitis due to animal (cat) (dog) hair and dander
J30.89	Other allergic rhinitis
J30.9	Allergic rhinitis, unspecified
J31.0	Chronic rhinitis
Lower Respiratory Disease	
J45.20	Mild intermittent asthma, uncomplicated
J45.30	Mild persistent asthma, uncomplicated
J45.40	Moderate persistent asthma, uncomplicated
J45.50	Severe persistent asthma, uncomplicated
J45.901	Unspecified asthma with (acute) exacerbation
J45.909	Unspecified asthma, uncomplicated
J45.991	Cough variant asthma
J45.998	Other asthma

Skin	
L20.82	Flexural eczema
L20.84	Intrinsic (allergic) eczema
L20.89	Other atopic dermatitis
L25.9	Unspecified contact dermatitis, unspecified cause
L50.0	Allergic urticaria
L50.8	Other urticaria
L50.9	Urticaria, unspecified

See back for examples and references that educate and empower best practices.
Coverage of specific ICD 10 diagnosis codes are subject to change and may vary by payer.



Documentation Guidance

- Review practice guidelines from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI), and the American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (ACAAI).
- Testing must be supported by a detailed history and physical examination suggesting IgE-mediated allergic disease.

Be mindful of Excludes1 and Excludes2 notes, which may prevent certain codes from being accepted by payers.

Excludes1

Two conditions (with separate codes) cannot be coded together unless documenting unrelated conditions.

Excludes2

A code is not appropriate for a specified condition.

Example: Mild persistent asthma, uncomplicated (J45.30)

Example Excludes1:

detergent asthma (J69.8), miner's asthma (J60), wheezing NOS (R06.2), wood asthma (J67.8)

Example Excludes2:

asthma with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (J44.89), chronic asthmatic (obstructive) bronchitis (J44.89), chronic obstructive asthma (J44.89), other specified chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (J44.89)

Case Examples

1 Joe is a 17-year-old male with year-round post-nasal drip, worse in spring/fall. Past history of recurrent URIs, otitis media, ADHD. Lives with 4 cats/3 dogs; mold found under bedroom carpet. On fluticasone/salmeterol, montelukast, fexofenadine, methylphenidate, albuterol PRN (reports daily use of albuterol). Exam shows pale nasal mucosa and cobblestoning; lungs clear.

Diagnosis: Moderate persistent allergic asthma + allergic rhinitis.

ICD 10 Codes: J45.40, J30.9

Allergen Testing: Highest sensitization levels to Timothy & Bermuda grasses and Mold.

Plan: Targeted exposure reduction to mold and grass.

Continue controller meds with goal to step down; use albuterol PRN.

Outcome: Marked symptom improvement, better sleep, no new infections, improved school performance.

Allergen Testing	kUA/L (nl <0.10)
Timothy Grass	17.70
Mold (<i>A. alternata</i>)	5.52
Bermuda Grass	4.15
Ragweed	0.37
House Dust Mite (<i>D. pteronyssinus</i>)	<0.10
House Dust Mite (<i>D. farinae</i>)	<0.10
Mulberry	<0.10
Sycamore	<0.10
Pigweed	<0.10
Cat Dander	<0.10
Dog Dander	<0.10
Cockroach	<0.10
Mold (<i>C. herbarum</i>)	<0.10
Box Elder	<0.10
Oak	<0.10
English Plantain	<0.10
Total IgE	205

2 Tom is a 50-year-old male with nasal congestion, sneezing, and burning sensation in both eyes. History of unscheduled office visits and symptoms are worse in late summer. Lives with 2 cats and home is surrounded by trees. Takes OTC antihistamines seasonally and Rx eye drops PRN. Exam shows mild, diffuse conjunctival erythema and lungs are clear.

Diagnosis: Allergic rhinoconjunctivitis.

ICD 10 Codes: J31.0, H10.45

Allergen Testing: Highest sensitization levels to weeds (ragweed & lamb's quarters), mold, and trees (silver birch & maple).

Plan: Targeted exposure reduction to weeds, mold, trees, and cats. Continue (OTC) antihistamines PRN, Rx eye drops PRN. Add Budesonide 1 spray per nostril daily.

Outcome: Significant decrease in symptoms and patient reports feeling much better.

Allergen Testing	kUA/L (nl <0.10)
Ragweed	41.7
Mold (<i>A. alternata</i>)	39.4
Lamb's Quarters (Goosefoot)	39.4
Silver Birch	35.5
Maple, Boxelder	10.6
White Ash	0.95
Cat Dander	0.82
Elm	<0.10
Orchard Grass (Cocksfoot)	<0.10
Oak	<0.10
Cockroach	<0.10
Dog Dander	<0.10
House Dust Mite (<i>D. pteronyssinus</i>)	<0.10
Total IgE	200

Sources: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2026, January 1). Billing and Coding: Allergy Testing (A56558). CMS.gov. <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/article.aspx?articleid=56558&ver=75&>; Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2016, March 17). Allergy testing (L36402). CMS.gov. <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/lcd.aspx?LCDId=36402>; American Academy of Professional Coders. (2024, November 12). Use ICD-10-CM excludes notes to improve coding - AAPC Knowledge Center. AAPC Knowledge Center. <https://www.aapc.com/blog/46794-use-icd-10-cm-excludes-notes-to-improve-coding/>; Bernstein, I. L., Li, J. T., Bernstein, D. I., Hamilton, R., Spector, S. L., Tan, R., Sicherer, S., Golden, D. B., Khan, D. A., Nicklas, R. A., Portnoy, J. M., Blessing-Moore, J., Cox, L., Lang, D. M., Oppenheimer, J., Randolph, C. C., Schuller, D. E., Tilles, S. A., Wallace, D. V., ... Weber, R. (2008). Allergy Diagnostic Testing: an updated practice parameter. *Annals of Allergy Asthma & Immunology*, 100(3), S1-S148. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s1081-1206\(10\)60305-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/s1081-1206(10)60305-5).