

RESPIRATORY RATINGS AND PYRAMIDING

Several respiratory diagnostic codes are not combined with each other.

RESPIRATORY FIELD NOTES

VERIFY EACH ROUTE

PREDOMINANT

Choose the predominant disability

Under section 4.96, assign one evaluation under the code reflecting the predominant respiratory disability.

ELEVATE

Consider overall severity

Elevation to the next higher evaluation may be warranted when the overall disability picture supports it.

NO STACK

Do not stack listed codes

Do not simply add separate ratings for asthma, COPD, sleep apnea, and other listed respiratory codes.

EXPLAIN

Require a reasoned decision

The decision should identify the predominant disability and explain the selected code and evaluation.

