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February 8, 2019

Ms. Donna Pickett

Co-Chair, ICD-10 Coordination and Maintenance Committee

National Center for Health Statistics

3311 Toledo Road

Hyattsville, MD 20782

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Dear Ms. Pickett:

The American Lung Association is pleased to support the request for the development of new ICD-10-CM codes for cough in the sign and symptom chapter under the current cough code R05, distinguishing among acute, subacute, chronic cough and cough of unspecified duration.

Cough is one of the most common complaints prompting patients to seek medical attention. A persistent chronic cough has negative impact on the patient's quality of life and well-being, including problems sleeping, physical consequences like fainting or breaking ribs, and lost productivity. There is a clinical need to identify effective interventions to help these patients. New ICD-10-CM codes are necessary to help identify specific categories of cough patients and connect them with the appropriate interventions.

The Lung Association supports the effort to distinguish among acute cough (cough of less than three weeks duration), subacute cough (cough of three to eight weeks duration) and chronic cough (cough of more than eight weeks duration). Acute and subacute cough are usually associated with respiratory infections that resolve themselves. Chronic cough may be associated with a variety of causes and requires a thorough clinical work-up to diagnose. Fortunately for many patients, treatment of the underlying causes of chronic cough usually resolves the cough. However, in some cases no underlying condition is identified. In these situations, patients

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with chronic cough continue to suffer from the condition. Developing distinct codes for acute, subacute, chronic and cough of unspecified duration will assist with the identification and classification of patients, appropriate medical work-up, and the undertaking of more precise health services research.

ICD-10-CM Cough Coding Proposal

	R05	Cough Excludes 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cough with hemorrhage (R04.2) • Smokers cough (J41.0)
<i>New code</i>	R05.1	Acute Cough Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cough of less than 3 weeks duration
<i>New Code</i>	R05.2	Subacute Cough Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cough of 3-8 weeks duration
<i>New code</i>	R05.3	Chronic Cough Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cough of more than 8 weeks duration (> 4 weeks in pediatrics) • Refractory or Unexplained Chronic Cough • Cough syncope • Cough, persistent • Paroxysmal cough
<i>New code</i>	R05.9	Cough of Unspecified Duration To be used when insufficient information is available to use codes R05.1, R05.2 or R05.3

The American Lung Association strongly encourages the development of these ICD-10 CM codes for cough.

Sincerely,



Albert A. Rizzo MD FCCP FACP
Chief Medical Officer

