

Data Speaks: Long Haul COVID Considerations Q&A

Q1: Would you please correct the slides when you send it out after the presentation as the "resource slides" are not easy to read. Thanks!

A1: The slides may be found at <https://broadriverrehab.com/data-speaks/part-i-covid-19-long-haul-complexities-and-impacts/>

Q2: Could we please also get the assessment tools that Dr. Brune referenced?

A2: Please reach out to Dr Brune individually for these resources. kbrune2339@gmail.com Also, here is another excellent resource offered by one of our participants on the call today. <https://aaushi.info/A57025>

Q3: Please send me information that you have for long COVID regarding cognitive issues.

A3: Here is a list that might get you started. So much is being written about this issue.

COVID May Affect Spinal Fluid, Causing 'Brain Fog,' Study Says -

https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/967059?uac=410213PN&faf=1&sso=true&impID=3968275&src=WNL_dne1_220124_MSCPEDIT

COVID Brain Fog a 'True Neurologic Condition' -

https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/967098?uac=410213PN&faf=1&sso=true&impID=3970994&src=WNL_dne4_220125_MSCPEDIT

Are we facing a crashing wave of neuropsychiatric sequelae of COVID-19? Neuropsychiatric symptoms and potential immunologic mechanisms - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7152874/>

Psychiatric and neuropsychiatric presentations associated with severe coronavirus infections: a systematic review and meta-analysis with comparison to the COVID-19 pandemic -

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7234781/>

Q4: Is there an ICD 10 Code for Post Intensive Care Syndrome or PICS?

A4: The only code I am aware of is the following. Clearly this does not cover the spectrum of illness that is encompassed by PICS and would need to be supported by physician documentation. Other individual codes may be necessary related to other PICS issues.

G72.81 Critical illness myopathy

Acute necrotizing myopathy

Acute quadriplegic myopathy

Intensive care (ICU) myopathy

Myopathy of critical illness

Q5: Where can we reference how to have validating documentation for the U09.9 ICD 10 coding for long haul symptoms.

A5: The ICD-10 coding guidelines are a great place to start.

As you point out, a new code was added starting Oct. 1, 2021 U09.9 specifically for sequela of COVID-19, or associated symptoms or conditions that develop following a previous COVID-19 infection. The complete guideline for this new code is as follows.

Coding Guidelines

<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/fy-2022-icd-10-cm-coding-guidelines.pdf>

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Post COVID-19 Condition

For sequela of COVID-19, or associated symptoms or conditions that develop following a previous COVID-19 infection, assign a code(s) for the specific symptom(s) or condition(s) related to the previous COVID-19 infection, if known, and code U09.9, Post COVID-19 condition, unspecified.

Code U09.9 should not be assigned for manifestations of an active (current) COVID-19 infection.

If a patient has a condition(s) associated with a previous COVID-19 infection and develops a new active (current) COVID-19 infection, code U09.9 may be assigned in conjunction with code U07.1, COVID-19, to identify that the patient also has a condition(s) associated with a previous COVID-19 infection. Code(s) for the specific condition(s) associated with the previous COVID-19 infection and code(s) for manifestation(s) of the new active (current) COVID-19 infection should also be assigned.

The tabular index, page 1977, indicates the following with regard to U09.9

<https://www.cms.gov/files/zip/2022-code-tables-tabular-and-index.zip>

U09 Post COVID-19 condition

U09.9 Post COVID-19 condition, unspecified

Note: *This code enables establishment of a link with COVID-19.*

This code is not to be used in cases that are still presenting with active COVID-19. However, an exception is made in cases of re-infection with COVID-19, occurring with a condition related to prior COVID-19.

Post-acute sequela of COVID-19 –

Code first the specific condition related to COVID-19 if known, such as:

chronic respiratory failure (J96.1-)

loss of smell (R43.8)

loss of taste (R43.8)

multisystem inflammatory syndrome (M35.81)

pulmonary embolism (I26.-)

pulmonary fibrosis (J84.10)

Also, follow the guidelines related to active diagnosis documentation in the RAI Manual pp. I-7 and following.

Q6: What is the way to get added to the Open Forum?

A6: https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/OpenDoorForums/ODF_SNFLTC. Also, to sign up for email reminders for when the ODF will occur go to

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCMS/subscriber/new?topic_id=USCMS_515

Q7: As we begin to see more residents that have had COVID with pneumonia and 'long-haul' symptoms has there been any word from CMS to determine if COVID may be designated as a Chronic Respiratory condition on the MDS in Section I6200? I have asked this question, but have not heard any word. This disease process is causing a person to have an increase in issues that are long-term and may need to be addressed by us.

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A7: I have not heard that this is being considered but I think it is a great suggestion. Currently However, even though a COVID sequela may not be listed at I6200, if there is a manifestation of a chronic respiratory illness that is a result of COVID that fits within the coding guidelines for that item, it could definitely be coded at I6200.

Q8: Is there any correlation between the severity of the initial onset and the post-COVID health issues?

A8: Here's a few good papers to start with - **Attributes and predictors of long COVID**

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-021-01292-y> and **Immunoglobulin signature predicts risk of post-acute COVID-19 syndrome** <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-021-27797-1>

Q9: Do we know if this will be reimbursed like a condition/extensive service like COPD, wound infection, end stage liver...?

A9: I have not heard that long covid is being considered in this respect. However, see discussion in answer to Q5. Certainly, the long COVID illnesses that apply can be coded as appropriate related to the appropriate MDS/PDPM category.

Q10: What issues are you seeing with the endocrine system, particularly Thyroid issues?

A10: Here are a few good resources to get started with on this issue. **COVID-19 AND THYROID DISEASE COVID-19 infection and thyroid function** - <https://www.thyroid.org/patient-thyroid-information/ct-for-patients/october-2020/vol-13-issue-10-p-3-5/>, **COVID-19 and Post-Infection Thyroid Disease** - <https://www.endocrineweb.com/covid-19-post-infection-thyroid-disease> and **How does COVID-19 impact the thyroid?** - <https://blogs.bcm.edu/2021/01/25/how-does-covid-19-impact-the-thyroid/>