

Coding SARS

In 2002, the first case of Severe Adult Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) emerged. Much discussion ensued about the proper way to code this condition. But it wasn't until this year that coders were given the tools to accurately classify this condition.

In order to accurately report and track the incidence of SARS, the ICD-9-CM Coordination and Maintenance Committee has approved the following changes to ICD-9-CM. The following codes are effective as of October 1, 2003.

- 079.82 SARS-associated coronavirus
- 480.3 Pneumonia due to SARS-associated coronavirus
- V01.82 Exposure to SARS-associated coronavirus.

Use V01.82 to identify cases where the patient has a confirmed exposure to the SARS-associated coronavirus, but has no evidence of the disease.

More information about the SARS outbreak see:

 <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/faq.htm>