

****The criteria provided below is representative of what is commonly accepted by certain payers and is not all inclusive, nor is it a guarantee a particular code will be supported by a payer.**

Pneumonia (CAP)	Findings	Documentation Source (i.e., H&P, Consult)
Positive imaging after hydration		
Symptoms (cough, sputum, fever, SOB)		
Antibiotic treatment consistent with CAP*		
Positive sputum or blood cultures (not required)		
Gram negative or complex pneumonia (HCAP)		
SNF resident/debilitated		
Recent hospitalization or other healthcare encounter		
Immunocompromised: Cancer, chemo, long term use of immunosuppressants, COPD		
Positive imaging after hydration		
Antibiotic treatment consistent with HCAP*		
Positive sputum or blood cultures (not required)		
Staph PNA: Indwelling IV catheters/devices open wounds/skin ulcers, recent antibiotic therapy, ventilator, IV drug use, +MRSA nasal swab		
Aspiration Pneumonia		
Lower lobe infiltrate on chest x-ray		
SNF resident/debilitated		
Dysphagia/esophageal disorder		
AMS (dementia, alcoholism, overdose)		
History of CVA/dysphagia/NG tube		
Witnessed aspiration event		
Positive swallow study		
Antibiotic treatment consistent with aspiration PNA*		
Unsupported (all PNA types)		
Negative imaging w/o explanation of clinical basis for Dx		
Discontinued treatment in absence of palliative care (ruled out)		

*See Table of Antibiotics in Chapter Two