

**ICD-9-CM Coordination and Maintenance Committee Meeting
September 27-28, 2007**

Topic: Contact with and exposure to mold

Molds are fungi that can be found both indoors and outdoors. Molds grow best in warm, damp, and humid conditions, and spread and reproduce by making spores. Mold spores can survive harsh environmental conditions, such as dry conditions, that do not support normal mold growth. Mold can enter your home through open doorways, windows, vents, and heating and air conditioning systems. Mold in the air outside can also attach itself to clothing, shoes, bags, and pets can and be carried indoors.

Exposure to damp and moldy environments may cause a variety of health effects, or none at all. Some people are sensitive to molds and for these people exposure to molds can cause symptoms such as nasal stuffiness, eye irritation, wheezing, or skin irritation. Some people, such as those with serious allergies to molds, may have more severe reactions. Severe reactions may occur among workers exposed to large amounts of molds in occupational settings, such as farmers working around moldy hay. Severe reactions may include fever and shortness of breath. Some people with chronic lung illnesses, such as obstructive lung disease, may develop mold infections in their lungs.

At the March 2007 C&M meeting a proposal was presented to create a new V code category for contact with and exposure to potentially hazardous substances, with a subcategory for contact with and exposure to potentially hazardous chemicals. It is now being proposed that an additional subcategory be added for exposure to molds within this possible new category, the title of which would be modified to allow for a broader range of codes.

TABULAR MODIFICATIONS

New section	OTHER SPECIFIED PERSONAL EXPOSURES AND HISTORY PRESENTING HAZARDS TO HEALTH (V87)	
New Category	V87	Other specified personal exposures and history presenting hazards to health
New code	V87.2	Contact with and exposure to molds