

# RESPIRATORY RATINGS AND PYRAMIDING

Several respiratory diagnostic codes are not combined with each other.

## RESPIRATORY FIELD NOTES

VERIFY EACH ROUTE

### PREDOMINANT

#### Choose the predominant disability

Under section 4.96, assign one evaluation under the code reflecting the predominant respiratory disability.

### ELEVATE

#### Consider overall severity

Elevation to the next higher evaluation may be warranted when the overall disability picture supports it.

### NO STACK

#### Do not stack listed codes

Do not simply add separate ratings for asthma, COPD, sleep apnea, and other listed respiratory codes.

### EXPLAIN

#### Require a reasoned decision

The decision should identify the predominant disability and explain the selected code and evaluation.

