

When using the Kimberly-Clark* BAL CATH* Bronchial Aspirate Sampling Catheter to perform a non-bronchoscopic, mini bronchoalveolar (BAL) procedure on a hospitalized patient, it would be appropriate to assign ICD-9 procedure code 33.29 to indicate that a non-bronchoscopic mini BAL procedure was performed.

ICD-9 PROCEDURE CODE	DESCRIPTION
33.29	Other diagnostic procedures on lung and bronchus

The mini BAL procedure is a more extensive procedure than tracheal lavage routinely performed at the bedside by the nursing or respiratory staff. It is more similar to the bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) procedure with the exception of mode of entry. Whereas the BAL procedure is performed through a bronchoscope, the Kimberly-Clark* BAL CATH* System is inserted through an established endotracheal or tracheostomy tube.

The American Hospital Association has confirmed that this ICD-9 procedure code would be appropriate for hospitals to use when a non-bronchoscopic mini BAL is performed.¹

The use of the 33.29 ICD-9 procedure code may or may not impact the patient's final DRG assignment which is dependent on the patient's primary and secondary diagnoses as well as other procedures performed in the care of the patient.

¹Letter dated July 16, 2009 from the American Hospital Association's coding consultant in response to Kimberly-Clark's request for coding clarification on file.

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