



What is ICD-10?

ICD-10 is a diagnostic coding system implemented in 1993 by the World Health Organization (WHO) to replace ICD-9. This code set is scheduled to replace ICD-9 CM, our current U.S. diagnostic code set, on October 1, 2013.

Why is the United States moving to ICD-10-CM?

Medical science keeps making new discoveries, and there are no numbers to assign these diagnoses in ICD-9-CM. Detailed codes of ICD-10-CM, will allow for better analysis of disease patterns and treatment outcomes that can advance medical care.

How is ICD-10-CM different from our current system?

In many ways, ICD-10-CM is quite similar to ICD-9-CM. The guidelines, conventions, and rules are very similar. The organization of the codes is very similar. Anyone who is qualified to code ICD-9-CM should be able to make the transition to ICD-10-CM.

ICD-9 CM Diagnosis Codes	ICD-10 CM Diagnosis Codes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-5 characters in length 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-7 characters in length
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 14,000 codes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 69,000 available codes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First character may be alpha (E or V) or numeric; characters 2-5 are numeric 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First character is alpha; characters 2 & 3 are numeric; characters 4-7 are alpha or numeric
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lacks detail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very specific

To ensure the ICD-10 coding education is retained through the October 1, 2012, implementation date, we recommend waiting until at least late 2012 to begin comprehensive ICD-10 coding training.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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