

# ICD-10 Taskforce Bulletin

A Monthly Newsletter from the NCHICA ICD-10 Taskforce

August 2010

## What's Changing with ICD-10?

ICD-10-CM is not an update to an existing code set, it is a whole new code set. The ICD-10-CM diagnosis code set has been expanded from 5 to 7 positions and the codes use alphanumeric characters in all positions, not just the first position as in ICD-9. As of the latest version, there are 68,000 existing codes, as opposed to the 13,000 in ICD-9. Moreover, there are codes that are a combination of diagnoses and symptoms, so that fewer codes need to be reported to fully describe a condition. Furthermore, the code set has been enhanced to enable providers to report diagnoses and conditions, which can be differentiated as occurring on the left or right side of the body (e.g., left arm, left kidney, left eye). The table below summarizes the changes that stakeholders will see.

Current State	Use	Future State
ICD-9-CM Volumes I & II	Inpatient and outpatient diagnosis	ICD-10-CM
ICD-9-CM Volume III	Inpatient procedures	ICD-10-PCS

The ICD-10 code set has also been organized somewhat differently than ICD-9, primarily to bring it up-to-date with modern medicine and the requirements of the industry to clearly identify particular conditions. Some examples of this are that sense organs are now separate from nervous system disorders; injuries are grouped by anatomical site (e.g., injuries of the head, injuries of the leg) instead of an injury category (fracture, bruise); and postoperative complications are now part of the specific body system chapter.

### Why Should All of This Matter?

*Isn't it just a simple matter of replacing one code set for another? It is not a simple matter. Diagnosis codes and procedure codes permeate almost every business process and system in both plan and provider organizations. Diagnosis codes are key for determining coverage and are used in treatment decisions. From plan design to statistical tracking of diseases, these codes are a crucial part of the way we run our programs.*

### RED ALERT COUNTDOWN

**1,130 Days**  
(As of August 27, 2010)

### What is the difference between ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM?

#### ICD-9-CM Code Format



- Consists of 3-5 characters
- 1<sup>st</sup> digit is numeric or alpha (E or V)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> digits are numeric
- Always at least 3 digits
- Decimal placed after the first 3 characters

#### ICD-10-CM Code Format



- Consists of 3-7 characters
- 1<sup>st</sup> digit is alpha
- All letters used except U
- 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> digits are numeric
- 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> digits can be alpha or numeric
- Decimal placed after the first 3 characters

Please see the CMS ICD-10 website at [www.cms.gov/ICD10](http://www.cms.gov/ICD10) for resources to help you prepare for the ICD-9 to ICD-10 change. For additional information and educational opportunities, please visit the NCHICA website at [www.nchica.org](http://www.nchica.org) and click on **ICD-10**.

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