

Produced by the Military Health Services (MHS) ICD-10 Integrated Project Team (IPT) & Defense Health Agency (DHA) Information Management (IM)

ICD-10: The Path to Improvement

As the New Year begins to bring in change, it is prudent to promote the importance of timely ICD-10 implementation. There are many benefits, beyond compliance, in moving to ICD-10. It is important to communicate these advantages when engaging stakeholders, gaining their buy in, and resisting any further implementation delays. Today's data needs are drastically different from 1979, when the United States first began using ICD-9. This is easily seen in a number of recent case studies, especially in global disease preparedness and expanding treatment options.

Global Disease Preparedness

The United States is the only industrialized nation still using ICD-9 to code morbidity. The lack of specificity in ICD-9 makes it difficult to analyze, research, and communicate disease outbreaks. This code set struggles to accommodate diseases such as Ebola and Chikungunya as they begin to make their way to American soil, often using one generalized code to represent many diseases. ICD-10, however, is more specific, enabling better data collection and data utilization to greatly improve health care delivery.

EBOLA

The recent Ebola outbreak highlights the increasing need for the ICD-10 transition. Currently, no specific code exists in ICD-9 for Ebola. The Department of Defense Coding Community agreed to the following four ICD-9 codes that must be coded to indicate infection with the Ebola virus:

- 078.89 Other specified diseases due to viruses
- V15.87 Exposure to potentially hazardous body fluids
- V07.0 Isolation
- V01.79 Contact with or exposure to other viral disease

In ICD-10-CM, Ebola is coded with one specific code: A98.4 Ebola virus disease.



The lack of a specific code in ICD-9 for Ebola means that the virus shares code 078.89 with numerous unspecified viral diseases. Thus, coding morbidity with ICD-9 greatly hinders the United States ability to capture, analyze and share data about specific viral outbreaks, making it difficult to efficiently respond to specific global health threats.¹

304

Days Remaining to
ICD-10 Conversion
As of 12/1/2014

Upcoming Events

Advanced ICD-10-PCS Skills Workshop

Jan 14-16, 2015
El Segundo, CA

<https://www.ahimastore.org/ProductDetailMeeting.aspx?ProductID=17838>

ICD-10 Readiness and Testing—Get Ready...Again

Jan 22, 2015
Webinar

<https://www.ahimastore.org/ProductDetailAudioSeminars.aspx?ProductID=17623>

ICD-10 Documentation Training for Physicians

3-hour online course offered by medical specialty

<http://www.aapc.com/ICD-10/ICD-10-physician-documentation.aspx>

**Note that the links above are provided as informational resources only and do not constitute an endorsement of any non-Government site or entity.*

¹ "Infographic: ICD-10 Could Bolster Ebola Biosurveillance | Government Health IT." *Government Health IT*. N.p., n.d. Web. 18 Nov. 2014.

CHIKUNGUNYA

Chikungunya virus, characterized by high fever, severe muscle and joint pains, and a rash, is transmitted to people by mosquitoes. Chikungunya is often associated with outbreaks in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Indian and Pacific Ocean; however, there have been over 1,000 cases reported in the United States (mostly in Florida).² Despite these numbers, there is no DoD coding guidance for Chikungunya to differentiate it from the other diseases in the same code.

In the USA, Chikungunya is coded in ICD-9 using either:

- 065.4 Mosquito-borne hemorrhagic fever , or
- 066.3 Other mosquito-borne fever

In either case, there are a number of other specified diseases included in the same ICD-9 code as the Chikungunya. ICD-10, however, has a single code, A92.0 Chikungunya virus disease (hemorrhagic), specific to Chikungunya to capture and report its diagnosis and treatment.

Expanding Treatment Alternatives

STATES WITH LEGALIZED CANNABIS USE

Cannabis has a number of different chemical compounds, some which are used for medical purposes. Because cannabis is still illegal under Federal law, Active Duty should not be using it and TRICARE policy does not encompass medical marijuana usage. In those States where it is legal, some non-Active Duty patients might report the use when asked about over-the-counter drugs (OTCs), herbals and supplements. It is important for providers to be aware of all OTCs, herbals and supplements due to potential drug interactions, including its possible synergistic effect with some opioids. At this time, there is limited data on cannabis interactions on the CDC supplement website.

In ICD-9-CM, there is no appropriate code specific to medical use of cannabis. Neither of these two codes should be used for medical cannabis use in States where cannabis use is legal:

- 304.2 Cannabis dependence
- 305.2 Cannabis abuse.

In ICD-10-CM, in states where cannabis use is legal, the medical use would be reported using F12.90 Cannabis use, unspecified, uncomplicated.

These three case studies are just a few of the many examples where ICD-9 lacks the specificity needs of today's environment. The transition to ICD-10 has boundless potential in improving the way healthcare is provided and documented. Many see big data as a major player in the future of medicine, and ICD-10 is one pathway to big data in health care. The robust code set will allow specific, quality data collection to provide insightful analysis into outcomes, treatments, and early detection of epidemics. Besides the potential benefits in optimization, the US is the only industrialized nation still using ICD-9 to record morbidity, thus adding to the need to transition sooner rather than later.³ The DHA recognizes the great benefits of ICD-10 and is moving toward implementation while continuing to promote the great need for ICD-10, to engage stakeholders effectively, and to prevent future delays in its implementation.

ICD-10: A Path to Better Health Outcomes



Capture



Analyze



Learn



Communicate



Improve

For more information, please contact: HIPAATCSmail@dha.mil

Or visit <http://www.tricare.mil/tma/hipaa>.

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 04 Nov. 2014. Web. 17 Nov. 2014.

³ Rusnak, William. "ICD-10 Is the Pathway to Big Data in Healthcare." *HIT Consultant*. N.p., n.d. Web. 18 Nov. 2014.