



ICD-10 Quick Education Guide

What is ICD-10?

[ICD-10](#) is a diagnostic coding system developed by the World Health Organization in 1993 to replace ICD-9-CM. ICD-10-CM consist of diagnosis codes and will be used in all settings by all providers. ICD-10-PCS are used only in the inpatient hospital setting for procedures. The effective date for ICD-10 implementation is [October 1, 2015](#).

What are ICD-10 codes used for?

ICD-10 codes report diagnoses, signs, and or symptoms documented in a patient’s chart or medical record. These codes are used to gather, store, and analyze data for public health, statistics, and reimbursement.

Who will ICD-10 impact?

ICD-10 will impact physicians, nurses, laboratories, office administrators, practice managers, billing and reimbursement staff, schedulers, front and back office staff, medical IT personnel, quality managers, utilization managers, auditors, data analysts, researchers, contract negotiators, consultants, accounting, vendors, insurance carriers, DME suppliers, and anyone else that rely on diagnosis codes to perform their jobs and/or relates to their jobs.

What else will ICD-10 impact?

ICD-10 will impact billing systems, practice management systems, EHRs (Electronic Health Records), clinical and decision support systems, encoding and billing software, abstracting systems, registration and scheduling systems, case management systems, registries, utilization and quality management systems, financial systems, compliance software, and any other software, system, or program that utilizes diagnosis codes as a data source. The medical record will require a greater level of specificity in the documentation, practice management forms such as ABNs and superbills will need to be re-done, insurance policies and pre authorizations forms will need to be updated as well as any other business or clinical forms that rely on diagnosis codes as a data source.

General Differences between ICD-9 and ICD-10

ICD-9	ICD-10
Codes up to five characters long	Up to seven characters long
Most codes numeric (exception is E and V codes)	All codes have both alpha and numeric characters
Valid codes may be 3, 4 or 5 characters long	1 st character is always alpha any letter but U
Approximately 17,000 codes	2 nd character is always numeric
	3 rd through 7 th characters can be a mix of alpha and numeric
	Valid codes may be 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 characters long
	Approximately 141,000 codes* estimates vary
	Allows for higher specificity such as location, right, left or bilateral

Where can I get more information about ICD-10?

- ✓ [AMA ICD-10 Resources](#)
- ✓ [AAPC ICD-10 Resources](#)
- ✓ [AHIMA ICD-10 Resources](#)
- ✓ [CMS ICD-10 Prepare for Medical Documentation Changes](#)
- ✓ [ICD-10 Latest News](#) – CMS Letter to physicians and AMA and CMS Joint Effort
- ✓ [2015 ICD-10 and GEMS](#)
- ✓ [2015 ICD-10 and GEMS PCS](#)