Optum360 Learning: Detailed Instruction for Appropriate ICD-10-CM Coding

An educational guide to the structure, conventions, and guidelines of ICD-10-CM coding

2017
Contents

Section 1: Introduction ................................................. 1
  Documentation ................................................................ 7
  Documentation Needs .................................................... 7
  Documentation and the Reimbursement Process .............. 10
  Increased Granularity ................................................... 11

Section 2: Introduction to ICD-10-CM ......................... 13
  Overview of Changes .................................................... 13
  General Organization of ICD-10 ................................... 20
  New Features to ICD-10-CM ......................................... 22
  Significant Changes to ICD-10 ...................................... 24
  Modification of ICD-10 .................................................. 29
  Incorporation of Common Subclassifications ................. 33
  Discussion Questions ..................................................... 43

Section 3: ICD-10-CM Coding Conventions ................ 45
  Axis of Classification .................................................... 46
  Arrangement of the Tabular List .................................... 46
  Tabular List Conventions .............................................. 53
  Arrangement of the Alphabetic Index ............................ 61
  Alphabetic Index Conventions ....................................... 61
  Modifiers .......................................................................... 62
  Discussion Questions ..................................................... 66

Section 4: ICD-10-CM Code Book Chapters ............... 67
  Chapter 1. Certain Infectious and Parasitic Diseases (A00–B99) ............... 67
  Chapter 2. Neoplasms (C00–D49) .................................... 77
  Chapter 3. Diseases of the Blood and Blood-forming Organs and Certain Disorders Involving the Immune Mechanism (D50–D89) ............... 87
  Chapter 4. Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases (E00–E89) ............... 94
  Chapter 5. Mental, Behavioral, and Neurodevelopmental Disorders (F01–F99) ......... 102
  Chapter 6. Diseases of the Nervous System (G00–G99) ......................... 110
  Chapter 7. Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa (H00–H59) .......................... 120
  Chapter 8. Diseases of the Ear and Mastoid Process (H60–H95) ................. 129
  Chapter 9. Diseases of the Circulatory System (I00–I99) ......................... 136
  Chapter 10. Diseases of the Respiratory System (J00–J99) ...................... 148
  Chapter 11. Diseases of the Digestive System (K00–K93) ....................... 158
  Chapter 12. Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue (L00–L99) ............... 167
  Chapter 13. Diseases of the Musculoskeletal System and Connective Tissue (M00–M99) ......... 175
  Chapter 14. Diseases of the Genitourinary System (N00–N99) ....................... 185
  Chapter 15. Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Puerperium (O00–O9A) ............... 193
  Chapter 16. Certain Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period (P00–P96) ............... 205
  Chapter 17. Congenital Malformations, Deformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities (Q00–Q99) ............... 214
  Chapter 18. Symptoms, Signs and Abnormal Clinical and Laboratory Findings, Not Elsewhere Classified (R00–R99) ......................... 220
  Chapter 19. Injury, Poisoning and Certain Other Consequences of External Causes (S00–T88) ............... 229
  Chapter 20. External Causes of Morbidity (V00–Y99) ............................. 246
  Chapter 21. Factors Influencing Health Status and Contact with Health Services (Z00–Z99) ............... 253

Appendix A: Coding Exercise Answers ....................... 259
  Answers to Chapter 1 Coding Exercises ......................... 259
  Answers to Chapter 1 Coding Scenarios ........................ 260
  Answers to Chapter 2 Coding Exercises ........................ 261
  Answers to Chapter 2 Coding Scenarios ........................ 262
  Answers to Chapter 3 Coding Exercises ........................ 263
  Answers to Chapter 3 Coding Scenarios ........................ 265
  Answers to Chapter 4 Coding Exercises ........................ 266
  Answers to Chapter 4 Coding Scenarios ........................ 267
  Answers to Chapter 5 Coding Exercises ........................ 268
  Answers to Chapter 5 Coding Scenarios ........................ 270
  Answers to Chapter 6 Coding Exercises ........................ 270
  Answers to Chapter 6 Coding Scenarios ........................ 272
  Answers to Chapter 7 Coding Exercises ........................ 272
  Answers to Chapter 7 Coding Scenarios ........................ 273
  Answers to Chapter 8 Coding Exercises ........................ 274
  Answers to Chapter 8 Coding Scenarios ........................ 275
  Answers to Chapter 9 Coding Exercises ........................ 276
  Answers to Chapter 9 Coding Scenarios ........................ 278
  Answers to Chapter 10 Coding Exercises ....................... 278
  Answers to Chapter 10 Coding Scenarios ....................... 280
  Answers to Chapter 11 Coding Exercises ....................... 281
  Answers to Chapter 11 Coding Scenarios ....................... 282
  Answers to Chapter 12 Coding Exercises ....................... 283
  Answers to Chapter 12 Coding Scenarios ....................... 284
  Answers to Chapter 13 Coding Exercises ....................... 285
  Answers to Chapter 13 Coding Scenarios ....................... 286
  Answers to Chapter 14 Coding Exercises ....................... 287
  Answers to Chapter 14 Coding Scenarios ....................... 289
  Answers to Chapter 15 Coding Exercises ....................... 289
  Answers to Chapter 15 Coding Scenarios ....................... 291
Answers to Chapter 16 Coding Exercises .................................. 292
Answers to Chapter 16 Coding Scenarios ............................ 293
Answers to Chapter 17 Coding Exercises .......................... 294
Answers to Chapter 17 Coding Scenarios ......................... 295
Answers to Chapter 18 Coding Exercises ......................... 296
Answers to Chapter 18 Coding Scenarios ......................... 297
Answers to Chapter 19 Coding Exercises ......................... 298
Answers to Chapter 19 Coding Scenarios ......................... 299
Answers to Chapter 20 Coding Exercises ......................... 300
Answers to Chapter 20 Coding Scenarios ......................... 301
Answers to Chapter 21 Coding Exercises ......................... 302
Answers to Chapter 21 Coding Scenarios ......................... 303

Appendix B: Comprehensive Self-Examination .... 305
Chapter 1. Certain Infectious and Parasitic Diseases
(A00–B99) ........................................................................ 305
Chapter 2. Neoplasms (C00–D49) .................................. 306
Chapter 3. Diseases of the Blood and Blood-forming
Organs and Certain Disorders Involving the
Immune Mechanism (D50–D89) ..................................... 307
Chapter 4. Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic
Diseases (E00–E89) ...................................................... 308
Chapter 5. Mental, Behavioral, and
Neurodevelopmental Disorders (F01–F99) ............... 309
Chapter 6. Diseases of the Nervous System
(G00–G99) ................................................................... 310
Chapter 7. Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa
(H00–H59) .................................................................. 311
Chapter 8. Diseases of the Ear and Mastoid Process
(H60–H95) .................................................................. 312
Chapter 9. Diseases of the Circulatory System
(I00–I99) .................................................................... 313
Chapter 10. Diseases of the Respiratory System
(J00–J99) .................................................................... 314
Chapter 11. Diseases of the Digestive System
(K00–K95) .................................................................... 315
Chapter 12. Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous
Tissue (L00–L99) ........................................................ 316
Chapter 13. Diseases of the Musculoskeletal
System and Connective Tissue (M00–M99) ......... 317
Chapter 14. Diseases of the Genitourinary
System (N00–N99) ...................................................... 318
Chapter 15. Pregnancy, Childbirth and the
Puerperium (O00–O9A) ............................................ 319
Chapter 16. Certain Conditions Originating in the
Perinatal Period (P00–P96) ........................................... 320
Chapter 17. Congenital Malformations, Deformations
and Chromosomal Abnormalities (Q00–Q99) ....... 321
Chapter 18. Symptoms, Signs and Abnormal Clinical
and Laboratory Findings, Not Elsewhere
Classified (R00–R99) .................................................. 322
Chapter 19. Injury, Poisoning, and Certain Other
Consequences of External Causes (S00–T88) ....... 323
Chapter 20. External Causes of Morbidity
(V00–Y99) ................................................................... 324
Chapter 21. Factors Influencing Health Status and
Contact with Health Services (Z00–Z99) ............. 325

Appendix C: Comprehensive Self-Examination
Answers ......................................................................... 327
Chapter 1. Certain Infectious and Parasitic Diseases
(A00–B99) ................................................................. 327
Chapter 2. Neoplasms (C00–D49) .................................. 328
Chapter 3. Diseases of the Blood and Blood-forming
Organs and Certain Disorders Involving the
Immune Mechanism (D50–D89) ................................ 329
Chapter 4. Endocrine, Nutritional and Metabolic
Diseases (E00–E89) ...................................................... 330
Chapter 5. Mental, Behavioral, and
Neurodevelopmental Disorders (F01–F99) ............... 331
Chapter 6. Diseases of the Nervous System
(G00–G99) .................................................................. 332
Chapter 7. Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa
(H00–H59) ................................................................ 333
Chapter 8. Diseases of the Ear and Mastoid Process
(H60–H95) ................................................................ 334
Chapter 9. Diseases of the Circulatory System
(I00–I99) .................................................................. 335
Chapter 10. Diseases of the Respiratory System
(J00–J99) .................................................................. 336
Chapter 11. Diseases of the Digestive System
(K00–K95) ................................................................ 337
Chapter 12. Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous
Tissue (L00–L99) ...................................................... 338
Chapter 13. Diseases of the Musculoskeletal
System and Connective Tissue (M00–M99) ....... 339
Chapter 14. Diseases of the Genitourinary System
(N00–N99) ................................................................. 340
Chapter 15. Pregnancy, Childbirth and the
Puerperium (O00–O9A) ............................................ 341
Chapter 16. Certain Conditions Originating in the
Perinatal Period (P00–P96) ........................................... 342
Chapter 17. Congenital Malformations, Deformations
and Chromosomal Abnormalities (Q00–Q99) ....... 343
Chapter 18. Symptoms, Signs and Abnormal Clinical
and Laboratory Findings, Not Elsewhere
Classified (R00–R99) .................................................. 344
Chapter 19. Injury, Poisoning, and Certain Other
Consequences of External Causes (S00–T88) ....... 345
Chapter 20. External Causes of Morbidity
(V00–Y99) .................................................................. 346
Chapter 21. Factors Influencing Health Status and
Contact with Health Services (Z00–Z99) ............. 347

Appendix D: ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for
Coding and Reporting 2017 ......................................... 349

Appendix E: Glossary ......................................................... 389
**INCREASED GRANULARITY**

The primary reason for creating a coding system that assigns a number to the diagnosis or condition is simply to record and retrieve information in an efficient way. One of the main purposes this is used — and always has been — is to gather data for research and statistics.

Nosologists, medical researchers, and epidemiologists are constantly tracking disease in the United States based on the coded data. A coding system for documenting and reporting cases allows the researchers, the statisticians, and the epidemiologists to gather the information upon which many important health care decisions are made. As such, the integrity of statistics and research findings is extremely important. Data drives health care reform, supports decisions regarding most effective and appropriate treatments, determines which clinical research endeavors to pursue, and aids in structuring and funding social programs concerned with health and well-being.

Data affects outcomes. Good data can help change the health care delivery system for the better. Coders are literally building the database that drives our future every time they choose the codes that are used for painting our statistical pictures and conducting research.

The increased granularity, or in other words, the greater level of detail afforded by ICD-10-CM, provides the quality data needed to support improved clinical outcomes and more cost-effective disease management.

**Improving Treatment Management**

ICD-10-CM can improve the management and treatment of disease for the individual. Code classifications for complications of medical and surgical care have been expanded to include the following categories:

- **Y62** Failure of sterile precautions during surgical and medical care
- **Y63** Failure in dosage during surgical and medical care
- **Y64** Contaminated medical or biological substances
- **Y70–Y82** Medical devices associated with adverse incidents in diagnostic and therapeutic use

The increased level of detail in chapter 20, “External Causes of Morbidity (V00–Y99),” provides a means to improve care by putting forth a mechanism for increased efficiency in tracking nosocomial and iatrogenic incidents that were previously either loosely defined by the code categories 996–999 in ICD-9-CM, or missing from the classification altogether.

**Establishing Better Clinical Outcomes and Treatment Protocols**

ICD-10-CM will not only aid in improving disease management and treatment for all individuals within a certain diagnostic group, but will also assist in achieving better treatment protocols that yield improved clinical outcomes for future cases. The increased data granularity of ICD-10-CM enables researchers to study diseases, together with the current treatments being used, on a more refined level. Statistical patterns are easily identified, linking critical connections necessary to expedite research and develop new treatments.

For example, carcinoma in situ of the breast can be tracked by only one code in ICD-9-CM, 233.0. There are 12 separate codes in the category for carcinoma in situ of the breast (D05) in ICD-10-CM, with axes for lobular, intraductal, other, and unspecified carcinoma. Together with the ICD-10-PCS system for reporting the procedures with greater detail, researchers can track the specific outcomes of the different types of radioactive materials versus surgical procedures used in treating
Laterality
In the past, there have been proposals to the ICD-9-CM coordination and maintenance committee to add laterality codes (i.e., right, left, or bilateral). This has been done in ICD-10-CM; however, ICD-10-CM does not add laterality in all cases. Many codes affected by this modification are found in the neoplasm and injury chapters.

**ICD-10**
- C56  Malignant neoplasm of ovary

**ICD-10-CM**
- C56  Malignant neoplasm of ovary
  - Use additional code to identify any functional activity
    - C56.0  Malignant neoplasm of right ovary
    - C56.1  Malignant neoplasm of left ovary
    - C56.9  Malignant neoplasm of unspecified ovary

**Trimester Specificity Obstetrical Coding**
Neither ICD-9 nor ICD-10 expands the codes in the “Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium” chapter to specify circumstances surrounding the pregnancy. In ICD-9-CM, a fifth-digit subdivision denotes the current episode of care. The episode of care is defined as the encounter in which the patient is receiving care, whether delivery occurred during that encounter, or an antepartum or postpartum condition is being treated without delivery occurring during that episode of care. The fifth digits from ICD-9-CM were not adopted for ICD-10-CM. Instead, the last character in the code reports the patient’s trimester. Because certain obstetric conditions or complications occur at only one point in the obstetric period, not all codes will include all three trimesters or a character to describe the trimester at all.

**ICD-10**
- O60  Preterm labour and delivery
  - Onset (spontaneous) of labour before 37 completed weeks of gestation.

**ICD-10-CM**
- O60  Preterm labor
  - Onset (spontaneous) of labor before 37 completed weeks of gestation
  - Excludes: false labor (O47.0-)
  - threatened labor NOS (O47.0-)
- O60.0  Preterm labor without delivery
  - O60.00  Preterm labor without delivery, unspecified trimester
  - O60.02  Preterm labor without delivery, second trimester
  - O60.03  Preterm labor without delivery, third trimester

**Expansion of Alcohol and Drug Codes**
Although ICD-10 had already made major changes to chapter 5, “Mental and Behavioural Disorders,” analysis of the codes for disorders due to alcohol and drug use has resulted in further modifications. The ICD-10 codes were reviewed for ways to better describe these disorders due to psychoactive substance use.

The result is the identification of the effects of use (e.g., abuse and dependence) at the fourth-character level, the specific aspects to the use (e.g., withdrawal), at the fifth-character level, and some of the manifestations (e.g., delirium), at the sixth-character level.

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** DEFINITIONS**

**trimester.** Period of three months.

** KEY POINT**

In ICD-10-CM, the sixth character may identify:
- Trimester
- Laterality
- Certain manifestations
Chapter 4 Coding Guidance

Diabetes Mellitus

Diabetes mellitus classification has been significantly revised in ICD-10-CM. Currently, ICD-9-CM includes diabetes code categories with other endocrine diseases classifiable to the same code grouping or code block (e.g., 252 Disorders of parathyroid gland, 254 Disorders of thymus gland). ICD-10-CM has designated a unique code block specifically for diabetes codes. Classification categories have been restructured as follows:

**ICD-9-CM**

Diseases of other endocrine glands (249–259)
- 249 Secondary diabetes mellitus
- 250 Diabetes mellitus

**ICD-10-CM**

Diabetes mellitus (E08–E13)
- E08 Diabetes mellitus due to underlying condition
- E09 Drug or chemical induced diabetes mellitus
- E10 Type 1 diabetes mellitus
- E11 Type 2 diabetes mellitus
- E13 Other specified diabetes mellitus

Whereas ICD-9-CM incorporated the use of fifth-digit subclassifications to designate diabetes by type, ICD-10-CM classifies diabetes to separate categories by cause or type within a single code block (E08–E13), as noted above.

Additionally, ICD-10-CM no longer distinguishes between controlled and uncontrolled disease. The alphabetic index provides the following instruction:

Diabetes, diabetic
- inadequately controlled—code to Diabetes, by type, with hyperglycemia
- out of control—code to Diabetes, by type, with hyperglycemia
- poorly controlled—code to Diabetes, by type, with hyperglycemia

In ICD-10-CM, the diabetic manifestation is represented by the fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-code characters. The etiology/manifestation coding convention of ICD-9-CM has been replaced by combination codes. As such, certain manifestations of diabetes, formerly requiring mandatory dual coding, are reportable with a single code in ICD-10-CM. These combination codes classify diabetes by type, body system, and certain complications. For example:

**Diagnosis:** Type 2 diabetes mellitus with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy and macular edema

**ICD-9-CM**

- 250.50 Diabetes with ophthalmic manifestations
- 362.05 Moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy
- 362.07 Diabetic macular edema

**ICD-10-CM**

- E11.331 Type 2 diabetes mellitus with moderate nonproliferative diabetic retinopathy with macular edema
Furthermore, note how the following classifications specify the manifestation within the ICD-10-CM code. For example:

**ICD-9-CM**

- **250.60** Diabetes with neurological manifestations
  - Use additional code to identify manifestation

**ICD-10-CM**

- **E11.41** Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic mononeuropathy
- **E11.42** Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic polyneuropathy
- **E11.43** Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic autonomic (poly)neuropathy
- **E11.44** Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic amyotrophy

Although these combination codes streamline diabetes classification, multiple codes are often necessary to report a condition in its entirety. Instructional notes within the ICD-10-CM text prompt the coder when additional codes are necessary. For example:

**Diagnosis:** Type 2 diabetes mellitus with stage 3 chronic kidney disease

- **E11.22** Type 2 diabetes mellitus with diabetic chronic kidney disease
  - Use additional code to identify stage of chronic kidney disease
  - (N18.1–N18.6)
- **N18.3** Chronic kidney disease, stage 3 (moderate)
  - Code first any associated:

In the alphabetic index, the main terms “Nephropathy” and “Nephritis” list subterms that reference diabetes codes E08–E13 with characters .21:

**Nephropathy** (see also Nephritis) N28.9
  - diabetic—see E08–E13 with .21

Review of the tabular list for code E11.22 indicates that diabetic renal complications classifiable to E11.21 are reported with E11.22 when the condition results in chronic kidney disease, which takes precedence in code assignment. An additional code is required to report the specific stage of disease (N18.1–N18.6). Similar hierarchies exist within diabetes classifications E08–E13.

Instructions regarding the coding and reporting of diabetes mellitus in ICD-10-CM mirror those for ICD-9-CM. Although guideline content has been edited to apply to the classification changes inherent in ICD-10-CM, the underlying concepts and sequencing rules for diabetes remain largely unchanged. These key concepts include:

- Assign as many codes as necessary and appropriate to describe the complications of the disease.
- When multiple body system complications coexist (E08–E13), report all complications as documented. Sequencing is determined by the reason for the encounter.
- If the type of diabetes is not documented, assign type 2 (E11.-) by default.
- Report code Z79.4 for patients requiring long-term insulin therapy. Do not assign Z79.4 for temporary insulin to administered to bring a type 2 patient’s blood sugar under control.
- Insulin pump malfunction resulting in either underdosing or overdosing of insulin is reported with the subcategory T85.6 mechanical complication code listed first, followed by the appropriate T38.3X6- code for the poisoning or underdosing. Assign additional codes to report the type of diabetes mellitus and any associated complications.
Z71.3 Dietary counseling and surveillance
Use additional code for any associated underlying medical condition
Use additional code to identify body mass index (BMI), if known (Z68.-)

Chapter 21 Coding Exercises
Assign the appropriate ICD-10-CM diagnoses codes for all reportable diagnoses, excluding external causes of morbidity (V00–Y99).

Answers to coding exercises are listed in appendix A by ICD-10-CM chapter.

1. Newborn health check, 14-day-old infant
   ______________________________________________________________

2. Single liveborn, delivered vaginally in the hospital, blood type O negative
   ______________________________________________________________

3. Yearly GYN examination with HPV screening and vaginal PAP smear
   ______________________________________________________________

Chapter 21 Coding Scenarios
Assign the appropriate ICD-10-CM diagnoses codes for all reportable diagnoses, excluding external causes of morbidity (V00–Y99):

Answers to coding scenarios are listed in appendix A by ICD-10-CM chapter.

1. An otherwise healthy post-menopausal 60-year-old female with endometrial hyperplasia presents for repeat endometrial biopsy. She has a history of estrogen therapy, which has been discontinued in recent years.
   ______________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________

   ______________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________

3. A 5-year-old adoptee presents for a preschool admission examination. Upon review of record, the physician documents under-immunization status and orders antibody testing.
   ______________________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________________