

ICD-10 and Specificity

The most impactful change in ICD-10 is the increased specificity. The required level of specificity necessitates improved documentation to capture complete diagnoses and reflect procedures performed. ICD-10-CM codes can be up to 7 characters long to accommodate subcategories that define the classification by describing site, etiology, or treatment level. ICD-10-CM codes can also use a 7th digit extension code to allow expandability and accuracy in capturing specific information on the condition or injury. Inclusion of the 7th character and supporting documentation expedites billing and creates a clear picture of services and treatment provided.