

ICD-9 and ICD-10: Code Set Comparisons

The primary driver for the move to ICD-10 is to provide increased accuracy in specifying medical conditions. The science of medicine has simply outgrown the ICD-9 code set! A quick comparison reveals the major changes in the organization, structure, code composition, and level of detail.

Diagnosis Code Set	
ICD-9-CM	ICD-10-CM
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 3-5 Characters- First character is alpha (E or V) or numeric- Characters 2-5 are numeric- Always at least 3 characters- Decimal placed after third character	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 3-7 characters- First character is alpha- All letters used except U- Second and third characters are numeric- Characters 4-7 are alpha or numeric- Decimal placed after third character
Procedure Code Set	
ICD-9-CM – Volume 3	ICD-10-PCS (Inpatient Only)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 3-4 characters long- All characters are numeric- Follows ICD structure for diagnosis coding- Codes in fixed or finite form list	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 7 characters long- Characters can be either alpha or numeric- Designed specifically for procedural coding- Codes constructed from values/tables