ICD-10 and ENT

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ICD-10 and Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT)

The information in this guide came from ICD-10 sources available for free on the internet at the CMS or World Health Organization website.

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Coding Guidelines

Many of the guidelines under ICD-9-CM wont change under ICD-10-CM. You will see new guidelines because ICD-10 will offer new codes never seen before. As an example of guidelines that will look familiar to you:

ICD-9 Guideline for Symptoms:

**Signs and symptoms**

Codes that describe symptoms and signs, as opposed to diagnoses, are acceptable for reporting purposes when a related definitive diagnosis has not been established (confirmed) by the physician. Chapter 16 of ICD-9-CM, Symptoms, Signs, and Ill-defined conditions (codes 780.0 -799.9) contain many, but not all codes for symptoms.
7. **Conditions that are an integral part of a disease process**
   Signs and symptoms that are integral to the disease process should not be assigned as additional codes.

8. **Conditions that are not an integral part of a disease process**
   Additional signs and symptoms that may not be associated routinely with a disease process should be coded when present.

**ICD-10 Guideline for Symptoms:**

**Signs and symptoms**
Codes that describe symptoms and signs, as opposed to diagnoses, are acceptable for reporting purposes when a related definitive diagnosis has not been established (confirmed) by the provider. Chapter 18 of ICD-10-CM, Symptoms, Signs, and Abnormal Clinical and Laboratory Findings, Not Elsewhere Classified (codes R00.0 - R99) contains many, but not all codes for symptoms.

5. **Conditions that are an integral part of a disease process**
   Signs and symptoms that are associated routinely with a disease process should not be assigned as additional codes, unless otherwise instructed by the classification.

6. **Conditions that are not an integral part of a disease process**
   Additional signs and symptoms that may not be associated routinely with a disease process should be coded when present.

As you can see, both guidelines are virtually identical, so the change to ICD-10 won't be a shock to a trained coder.
Chapter 8: Diseases of Ear and Mastoid Process (H60-H95)

The following are some ICD-10 coding guidelines that may impact ENT providers. Please note that these are not ALL of the ICD-10 guidelines, just a sample, and, again, these look identical to ICD-9 guidelines. These guidelines are published by the World Health Organization:

**Signs and symptoms**
Codes that describe symptoms and signs, as opposed to diagnoses, are acceptable for reporting purposes when a related definitive diagnosis has not been established (confirmed) by the provider. Chapter 18 of ICD-10-CM, Symptoms, Signs, and Abnormal Clinical and Laboratory Findings, Not Elsewhere Classified (codes R00.0 - R99) contains many, but not all codes for symptoms.

**Conditions that are an integral part of a disease process**
Signs and symptoms that are associated routinely with a disease process should not be assigned as additional codes, unless otherwise instructed by the classification.

**Conditions that are not an integral part of a disease process**
Additional signs and symptoms that may not be associated routinely with a disease process should be coded when present.

**Multiple coding for a single condition**
In addition to the etiology/manifestation convention that requires two codes to fully describe a single condition that affects multiple body systems, there are other single conditions that also require more than one code. “Use additional code” notes are found in the Tabular at codes that are not part of an etiology/manifestation pair where a secondary code is useful to fully describe a condition. The sequencing rule is the same as the etiology/manifestation pair, “use additional code” indicates that a secondary code should be added.

“Code first” notes are also under certain codes that are not specifically manifestation codes but may be due to an underlying cause. When there is a ”code first” note and an underlying condition is present, the underlying condition should be sequenced first.
“Code, if applicable, any causal condition first”, notes indicate that this code may be assigned as a principal diagnosis when the causal condition is unknown or not applicable. If a causal condition is known, then the code for that condition should be sequenced as the principal or first-listed diagnosis.

Multiple codes may be needed for late effects, complication codes and obstetric codes to more fully describe a condition. See the specific guidelines for these conditions for further instruction.

**Acute and Chronic Conditions**
If the same condition is described as both acute (subacute) and chronic, and separate subentries exist in the Alphabetic Index at the same indentation level, code both and sequence the acute (subacute) code first.

**Late Effects (Sequela)**
A late effect is the residual effect (condition produced) after the acute phase of an illness or injury has terminated. There is no time limit on when a late effect code can be used. The residual may be apparent early, such as in cerebral infarction, or it may occur months or years later, such as that due to a previous injury. Coding of late effects generally requires two codes sequenced in the following order: The condition or nature of the late effect is sequenced first. The late effect code is sequenced second.

An exception to the above guidelines are those instances where the code for late effect is followed by a manifestation code identified in the Tabular List and title, or the late effect code has been expanded (at the fourth, fifth or sixth character levels) to include the manifestation(s). The code for the acute phase of an illness or injury that led to the late effect is never used with a code for the late effect.

**Impending or Threatened Condition**
Code any condition described at the time of discharge as “impending” or “threatened” as follows:
If it did occur, code as confirmed diagnosis.

If it did not occur, reference the Alphabetic Index to determine if the condition has a subentry term for “impending” or “threatened” and also reference main term entries for “Impending” and for “Threatened.”

If the subterms are listed, assign the given code.
If the subterms are not listed, code the existing underlying condition(s) and not the condition described as impending or threatened.

**Reporting Same Diagnosis Code More than Once**
Each unique ICD-10-CM diagnosis code may be reported only once for an encounter. This applies to bilateral conditions when there are no distinct codes identifying laterality or two different conditions classified to the same ICD-10-CM diagnosis code.

**Laterality**
For bilateral sites, the final character of the codes in the ICD-10-CM indicates laterality. An unspecified side code is also provided should the side not be identified in the medical record. If no bilateral code is provided and the condition is bilateral, assign separate codes for both the left and right side.

**Coding of Injuries**
When coding injuries, assign separate codes for each injury unless a combination code is provided, in which case the combination code is assigned. Multiple injury codes are provided in ICD-10-CM, but should not be assigned unless information for a more specific code is not available. These traumatic injury codes (S00-T14.9) are not to be used for normal, healing surgical wounds or to identify complications of surgical wounds.

The code for the most serious injury, as determined by the provider and the focus of treatment, is sequenced first.

**Primary injury with damage to nerves/blood vessels**
When a primary injury results in minor damage to peripheral nerves or blood vessels, the primary injury is sequenced first with additional code(s) for injuries to nerves and spinal cord (such as category S04), and/or injury to blood vessels (such as category S15). When the primary injury is to the blood vessels or nerves, that injury should be sequenced first.

**External Causes of Morbidity (V01- Y99)**
Introduction: These guidelines are provided for the reporting of external causes of morbidity codes in order that there will be standardization in the process. These codes are secondary codes for use in any health care setting.
External cause codes are intended to provide data for injury research and evaluation of injury prevention strategies. These codes capture how the injury or health condition happened (cause), the intent (unintentional or accidental; or intentional, such as suicide or assault), the place where the event occurred, the activity of the patient at the time of the event, and the person’s status (e.g., civilian, military).

General External Cause Coding Guidelines

**Used with any code in the range of A00.0-T88.9, Z00-Z99**
An external cause code may be used with any code in the range of A00.0-T88.9, Z00-Z99, classification that is a health condition due to an external cause. Though they are most applicable to injuries, they are also valid for use with such things as infections or diseases due to an external source, and other health conditions, such as a heart attack that occurs during strenuous physical activity.

**External cause code used for length of treatment**
Assign the external cause code, with the appropriate 7th character (initial encounter, subsequent encounter or sequela) for each encounter for which the injury or condition is being treated.

**Use the full range of external cause codes**
Use the full range of external cause codes to completely describe the cause, the intent, the place of occurrence, and if applicable, the activity of the patient at the time of the event, and the patient’s status, for all injuries, and other health conditions due to an external cause.

**Assign as many external cause codes as necessary**
Assign as many external cause codes as necessary to fully explain each cause. If only one external code can be recorded, assign the code most related to the principal diagnosis.

**The selection of the appropriate external cause code**
The selection of the appropriate external cause code is guided by the Index to External Causes, which is located after the Alphabetical Index to diseases and by Inclusion and Exclusion notes in the Tabular List.

**External cause code can never be a principal diagnosis**
An external cause code can never be a principal (first listed) diagnosis.
Combination external cause codes
Certain of the external cause codes are combination codes that identify sequential events that result in an injury, such as a fall which results in striking against an object. The injury may be due to either event or both. The combination external cause code used should correspond to the sequence of events regardless of which caused the most serious injury.

Multiple External Cause Coding Guidelines
More than one external cause code is required to fully describe the external cause of an illness, injury or poisoning. The assignment of external cause codes should be sequenced in the following priority:

If two or more events cause separate injuries, an external cause code should be assigned for each cause.

Unknown or Undetermined Intent Guideline
If the intent (accident, self-harm, assault) of the cause of an injury or other condition is unknown or unspecified, code the intent as accidental intent. All transport accident categories assume accidental intent.

Late Effects of External Cause Guidelines

Late effect external cause codes
Late effects are reported using the external cause code with the 7th character extension “S” for sequela. These codes should be used with any report of a late effect or sequela resulting from a previous injury.

Late effect external cause code with a related current injury
A late effect external cause code should never be used with a related current nature of injury code.

Use of late effect external cause codes for subsequent visits
Use a late effect external cause code for subsequent visits when a late effect of the initial injury is being treated. Do not use a late effect external cause code for subsequent visits for follow-up care (e.g., to assess healing, to receive rehabilitative therapy) of the injury or poisoning when no late effect of the injury has been documented.
External cause status

A code from category Y99, External cause status, should be assigned whenever any other external cause code is assigned for an encounter, including an Activity code, except for the events noted below. Assign a code from category Y99, External cause status, to indicate the work status of the person at the time the event occurred. The status code indicates whether the event occurred during military activity, whether a non-military person was at work, whether an individual including a student or volunteer was involved in a non-work activity at the time of the causal event. A code from Y99, External cause status, should be assigned, when applicable, with other external cause codes, such as transport accidents and falls. The external cause status codes are not applicable to poisonings, adverse effects, misadventures or late effects.

Do not assign a code from category Y99 if no other external cause codes (cause, activity) are applicable for the encounter.

Do not assign code Y99.9, Unspecified external cause status, if the status is not stated.

History (of)
There are two types of history Z codes, personal and family. Personal history codes explain a patient’s past medical condition that no longer exists and is not receiving any treatment, but that has the potential for recurrence, and therefore may require continued monitoring.

Family history codes are for use when a patient has a family member(s) who has had a particular disease that causes the patient to be at higher risk of also contracting the disease.

Personal history codes may be used in conjunction with follow-up codes and family history codes may be used in conjunction with screening codes to explain the need for a test or procedure. History codes are also acceptable on any medical record regardless of the reason for visit. A history of an illness, even if no longer present, is important information that may alter the type of treatment ordered.

The history Z code categories are:
Z80 Family history of primary malignant neoplasm
Z81 Family history of mental and behavioral disorders
Z82 Family history of certain disabilities and chronic diseases (leading to disablement)
Z83 Family history of other specific disorders
Z84 Family history of other conditions
Z85 Personal history of malignant neoplasm
Z86 Personal history of certain other diseases
Z87 Personal history of other diseases and conditions
Z91.4- Personal history of psychological trauma, not elsewhere classified
Z91.5 Personal history of self-harm
Z91.8- Other specified personal risk factors, not elsewhere classified
Z92 Personal history of medical treatment
Except: Z92.0, Personal history of contraception
Except: Z92.82, Status post administration of tPA (rtPA) in a different facility within the last 24 hours prior to admission to a current facility

**Screening**

Screening is the testing for disease or disease precursors in seemingly well individuals so that early detection and treatment can be provided for those who test positive for the disease (e.g., screening mammogram).

The testing of a person to rule out or confirm a suspected diagnosis because the patient has some sign or symptom is a diagnostic examination, not a screening. In these cases, the sign or symptom is used to explain the reason for the test.

A screening code may be a first listed code if the reason for the visit is specifically the screening exam. It may also be used as an additional code if the screening is done during an office visit for other health problems. A screening code is not necessary if the screening is inherent to a routine examination, such as a pap smear done during a routine pelvic examination.

Should a condition be discovered during the screening then the code for the condition may be assigned as an additional diagnosis.

The Z code indicates that a screening exam is planned. A procedure code is required to confirm that the screening was performed.

The screening Z codes/categories:
Z11 Encounter for screening for infectious and parasitic diseases
Z12 Encounter for screening for malignant neoplasms
Z13 Encounter for screening for other diseases and disorders
Except: Z13.9, Encounter for screening, unspecified
Z36 Encounter for antenatal screening for mother

**Aftercare**

Aftercare visit codes cover situations when the initial treatment of a disease has been performed and the patient requires continued care during the healing or recovery phase, or for the long-term consequences of the disease. The aftercare Z code should not be used if treatment is directed at a current, acute disease. The diagnosis code is to be used in these cases.

The aftercare Z codes should also not be used for aftercare for injuries. For aftercare of an injury, assign the acute injury code with the 7th character “D” (subsequent encounter).

The aftercare codes are generally first listed to explain the specific reason for the encounter. An aftercare code may be used as an additional code when some type of aftercare is provided in addition to the reason for admission and no diagnosis code is applicable. An example of this would be the closure of a colostomy during an encounter for treatment of another condition.

Aftercare codes should be used in conjunction with other aftercare codes or diagnosis codes to provide better detail on the specifics of an aftercare encounter visit, unless otherwise directed by the classification. Should a patient receive multiple types of antineoplastic therapy during the same encounter, code Z51.0, Encounter for antineoplastic radiation therapy, and codes from subcategory Z51.1, Encounter for antineoplastic chemotherapy and immunotherapy, may be used together on a record. The sequencing of multiple aftercare codes depends on the circumstances of the encounter.

Certain aftercare Z code categories need a secondary diagnosis code to describe the resolving condition or sequelae. For others, the condition is included in the code title.

Additional Z code aftercare category terms include fitting and adjustment, and attention to artificial openings.

Status Z codes may be used with aftercare Z codes to indicate the nature of the aftercare. For example code Z95.1, Presence of aortocoronary
bypass graft, may be used with code Z48.812, Encounter for surgical aftercare following surgery on the circulatory system, to indicate the surgery for which the aftercare is being performed. A status code should not be used when the aftercare code indicates the type of status, such as using Z43.0, Encounter for attention to tracheostomy, with Z93.0, Tracheostomy status.

The aftercare Z category/codes:
**Z42** Encounter for plastic and reconstructive surgery following medical procedure or healed injury
Z43 Encounter for attention to artificial openings
Z44 Encounter for fitting and adjustment of external prosthetic device
Z45 Encounter for adjustment and management of implanted device
Z46 Encounter for fitting and adjustment of other devices
Z47 Orthopedic aftercare
Z48 Encounter for other post procedural aftercare
Z49 Encounter for care involving renal dialysis
Z51 Encounter for other aftercare

**Follow-up**
The follow-up codes are used to explain continuing surveillance following completed treatment of a disease, condition, or injury. They imply that the condition has been fully treated and no longer exists. They should not be confused with aftercare codes, or injury codes with 7th character “D,” that explain ongoing care of a healing condition or its sequelae. Follow-up codes may be used in conjunction with history codes to provide the full picture of the healed condition and its treatment. The follow-up code is sequenced first, followed by the history code.

A follow-up code may be used to explain multiple visits. Should a condition be found to have recurred on the follow-up visit, then the code for the condition should be assigned as an additional diagnosis.

The follow-up Z code categories:
Z08 Encounter for follow-up examination after completed treatment for malignant neoplasm
Z09 Encounter for follow-up examination after completed treatment for conditions other than malignant neoplasm
Z39 Encounter for maternal postpartum care and examination
Two or more interrelated conditions, each potentially meeting the definition for principal diagnosis.

When there are two or more interrelated conditions (such as diseases in the same ICD-10-CM chapter or manifestations characteristically associated with a certain disease) potentially meeting the definition of principal diagnosis, either condition may be sequenced first, unless the circumstances of the admission, the therapy provided, the Tabular List, or the Alphabetic Index indicate otherwise.

Two or more diagnoses that equally meet the definition for principal diagnosis

In the unusual instance when two or more diagnoses equally meet the criteria for principal diagnosis as determined by the circumstances of admission, diagnostic workup and/or therapy provided, and the Alphabetic Index, Tabular List, or another coding guidelines does not provide sequencing direction, any one of the diagnoses may be sequenced first.

Two or more comparative or contrasting conditions.

In those rare instances when two or more contrasting or comparative diagnoses are documented as “either/or” (or similar terminology), they are coded as if the diagnoses were confirmed and the diagnoses are sequenced according to the circumstances of the admission. If no further determination can be made as to which diagnosis should be principal, either diagnosis may be sequenced first.

A symptom(s) followed by contrasting/comparative diagnoses

When a symptom(s) is followed by contrasting/comparative diagnoses, the symptom code is sequenced first. All the contrasting/comparative diagnoses should be coded as additional diagnoses.

Original treatment plan not carried out

Sequence as the principal diagnosis the condition, which after study occasioned the admission to the hospital, even though treatment may not have been carried out due to unforeseen circumstances.
**Previous conditions**
If the provider has included a diagnosis in the final diagnostic statement, such as the discharge summary or the face sheet, it should ordinarily be coded. Some providers include in the diagnostic statement resolved conditions or diagnoses and status-post procedures from previous admission that have no bearing on the current stay. Such conditions are not to be reported and are coded only if required by hospital policy. However, history codes (categories Z80-Z87) may be used as secondary codes if the historical condition or family history has an impact on current care or influences treatment.

**Abnormal findings**
Abnormal findings (laboratory, x-ray, pathologic, and other diagnostic results) are not coded and reported unless the provider indicates their clinical significance. If the findings are outside the normal range and the attending provider has ordered other tests to evaluate the condition or prescribed treatment, it is appropriate to ask the provider whether the abnormal finding should be added.

**Please note:** This differs from the coding practices in the outpatient setting for coding encounters for diagnostic tests that have been interpreted by a provider.

**Uncertain Diagnosis**
If the diagnosis documented at the time of discharge is qualified as “probable”, “suspected”, “likely”, “questionable”, “possible”, or “still to be ruled out” or other similar terms indicating uncertainty, code the condition as if it existed or was established. The bases for these guidelines are the diagnostic workup, arrangements for further workup or observation, and initial therapeutic approach that correspond most closely with the established diagnosis.

**Note:** This guideline is applicable only to inpatient admissions to short-term, acute, long-term care and psychiatric hospitals.

**Selection of first-listed condition**
In the outpatient setting, the term first-listed diagnosis is used in lieu of principal diagnosis.
In determining the first-listed diagnosis the coding conventions of ICD-10-CM, as well as the general and disease specific guidelines take precedence over the outpatient guidelines.

Diagnoses often are not established at the time of the initial encounter/visit. It may take two or more visits before the diagnosis is confirmed.

The most critical rule involves beginning the search for the correct code assignment through the Alphabetic Index.

**Accurate reporting of ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes**

For accurate reporting of ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes, the documentation should describe the patient’s condition, using terminology which includes specific diagnoses as well as symptoms, problems, or reasons for the encounter. There are ICD-10-CM codes to describe all of these.

**Encounters for circumstances other than a disease or injury**

ICD-10-CM provides codes to deal with encounters for circumstances other than a disease or injury. The Factors Influencing Health Status and Contact with Health Services codes (Z00-99) is provided to deal with occasions when circumstances other than a disease or injury are recorded as diagnosis or problems.

**Level of Detail in Coding**

**ICD-10-CM codes with 3, 4, or 5 digits**

ICD-10-CM is composed of codes with either 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 digits. Codes with three digits are included in ICD-10-CM as the heading of a category of codes that may be further subdivided by the use of fourth fifth digits, sixth or seventh digits which provide greater specificity.

**Use of full number of digits required for a code**

A three-digit code is to be used only if it is not further subdivided. A code is invalid if it has not been coded to the full number of characters required for that code, including the 7th character extension, if applicable.

**ICD-10-CM code for the diagnosis, condition, problem, or other reason for encounter/visit**

List first the ICD-10-CM code for the diagnosis, condition, problem, or other reason for encounter/visit shown in the medical record to be chiefly
responsible for the services provided. List additional codes that describe any coexisting conditions. In some cases the first-listed diagnosis may be a symptom when a diagnosis has not been established (confirmed) by the physician.

**Uncertain diagnosis**
Do not code diagnoses documented as “probable”, “suspected,” “questionable,” “rule out,” or “working diagnosis” or other similar terms indicating uncertainty. Rather, code the condition(s) to the highest degree of certainty for that encounter/visit, such as symptoms, signs, abnormal test results, or other reason for the visit.

**Please note:** This differs from the coding practices used by short-term, acute care, long-term care and psychiatric hospitals.

**Chronic diseases**
Chronic diseases treated on an ongoing basis may be coded and reported as many times as the patient receives treatment and care for the condition(s)

**Code all documented conditions that coexist**
Code all documented conditions that coexist at the time of the encounter/visit, and require or affect patient care treatment or management. Do not code conditions that were previously treated and no longer exist. However, history codes (categories Z80-Z87) may be used as secondary codes if the historical condition or family history has an impact on current care or influences treatment.

**Patients receiving diagnostic services only**
For patients receiving diagnostic services only during an encounter/visit, sequence first the diagnosis, condition, problem, or other reason for encounter/visit shown in the medical record to be chiefly responsible for the outpatient services provided during the encounter/visit. Codes for other diagnoses (e.g., chronic conditions) may be sequenced as additional diagnoses.

**Patients receiving therapeutic services only**
For patients receiving therapeutic services only during an encounter/visit, sequence first the diagnosis, condition, problem, or other reason for encounter/visit shown in the medical record to be chiefly responsible for the outpatient services provided during the encounter/visit. Codes for other
diagnoses (e.g., chronic conditions) may be sequenced as additional diagnoses.

The only exception to this rule is that when the primary reason for the admission/encounter is chemotherapy or radiation therapy, the appropriate Z code for the service is listed first, and the diagnosis or problem for which the service is being performed listed second.

**ENT Diagnosis Codes**

The following are some of the most used codes in some Ear, Nose, and Throat practices. Please understand that this guide does NOT contain all codes used. This guide does not take the place of coding or published coding manuals. This is NOT a coding cheat sheet. This guide is NOT to be used to assign a diagnostic code to a service. **WE DO NOT AND WE NEVER CODE ASSIGNING A CODE TO A SERVICE!!!** This guide is to show you what the codes you use will look like when ICD-10 takes place on October 1, 2015. I am also trying to show you that ICD-10 is not as scary as some may wish you to believe. I’ve received phone calls telling me that I need to attend their seminar if I want my claims paid by the insurance companies. I see these as scare tactics and they don’t know that I know better. Let me tell you a secret, CMS, the World Health Organization or any other State or Federal regulatory organization has NOT published any documents that mandate that you or your staff attend an ICD-10 seminar in order that your claims are paid! If you wish to attend a seminar of your choice, you are free to do so! Me? I want to obtain my information from trusted and reliable sources.

The ICD-10-CM codes listed in this guide are current as of the day this guide was prepared. If additional information is needed to obtain a more accurate code, it will be noted. Some ICD-9-CM codes do NOT convert easily to ICD-10-CM. The medical record documentation will need to be more specific.

The easiest place to find ICD-10 codes is the 2015 ICD-10-CM manual. If you have an android device like a smart phone, tablet or Kindle, you can go to the Google store and download a free ICD-10 app. I also use a software called Turbocoder. You can learn more about it at
Turbocoder allows me to do a quick search for CPT, ICD-9, and HCPCS codes. When you find the ICD-9 code, they took this a step further and displays the ICD-10 code for the disease.

When I code, I don’t rely completely on software, I go old school. I read the medical record to see what is documented and I open the coding books to verify the correct code(s), read the coding conventions, guidelines and the code definition. I verify that the code I am selecting is 100% true, accurate, and correct. I know that I sound like I’m on a soapbox, preaching, but, I want to see that you code that way you should be coding.

Think of October 1, 2015 as a reset button on your coding and billing practices and to use it to fix the mistakes you may be making now. You will spend the next several weeks looking for things that you may not be doing correctly and fixing them. When done, you’ll probably say to yourself, ICD-10 isn’t scary at all. If this is so, then I have accomplished my mission to educate and inform.

### NUMERICAL ORDER BY ICD-9-CM

**ICD-9-CM**

140.9 Malignant neoplasm lip/vermilion NOS

**ICD-10-CM**

C00.9 Malignant neoplasm of lip, unspecified

**ICD-9-CM**

327.23 Obstructive sleep apnea

**ICD-10-CM**

G47.33 Obstructive sleep apnea (adult) (pediatric)

**ICD-9-CM**

380.10 Infective otitis externa NOS

**ICD-10-CM**

H60.391 - Other infective otitis externa, right ear

H60.392 - Other infective otitis externa, left ear
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ICD-9-CM</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>380.4</td>
<td>Impacted cerumen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J01.90</td>
<td>Acute Sinusitis, Unspecified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J01.91</td>
<td>Acute recurrent sinusitis, unspecified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J02</td>
<td>Acute Pharyngitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J02.9</td>
<td>Acute Pharyngitis, unspecified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J31.0</td>
<td>Chronic rhinitis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ICD-10-CM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H60.393</td>
<td>Other infective otitis externa, bilateral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H60.399</td>
<td>Other infective otitis externa, unspecified ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H61.21</td>
<td>Impacted cerumen, right ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H61.22</td>
<td>Impacted cerumen, left ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H61.23</td>
<td>Impacted cerumen, bilateral</td>
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<tr>
<td>H61.20</td>
<td>Impacted cerumen, unspecified ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J01.90</td>
<td>Acute Sinusitis, Unspecified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J01.91</td>
<td>Acute recurrent sinusitis, unspecified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J02</td>
<td>Acute Pharyngitis</td>
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<td>Acute Pharyngitis, unspecified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J31.0</td>
<td>Chronic rhinitis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ICD-9-CM
472.1 Chronic pharyngitis

ICD-10-CM
J31.2 Chronic pharyngitis

One thing that ICD-10 is showing you is that the one ICD-9 code can become several ICD-10 codes and with ENT, anatomy could be critical to coding correctly. You have left side, right side and both sides.

The Coding Process

The process for coding ICD-10 is no different than that of ICD-9, but documentation will be the success or failure of ICD-10. Improper or lack of documentation will only delay claims processing and will decrease practice revenue. The coder reads the medical record. The coder reads that the doctor documented “Chest pain”. The coder opens the ICD-10 manual, goes to the Index (words) and looks up the condition, which in this case is Pain.

Pain(s) (see also Painful) R52
• - chest (central) R07.9
• - - anterior wall R07.89
• - - atypical R07.89
• - - ischemic I20.9
• - - musculoskeletal R07.89
• - - non-cardiac R07.89
• - - on breathing R07.1
• - - pleurodynia R07.81
• - - precordial R07.2
• - - wall (anterior) R07.89

As you can see from the above ICD-10 index, you have chest pain listed as R07.9. Next you want to go to the tabular section to make sure that R07.9 is the correct code and to see if there are any coding conventions. Coding conventions provide us with additional information we need to ensure we have the correct code. The ICD-10 codes are identified in bold print. The
coding conventions are not bold. If you are familiar with the ICD-9 coding conventions, they look familiar to you in ICD-10. The red printing identifies the correct code and its description. That is what I did for easy identification.

The tabular for R07 is below.

- R07 Pain in throat and chest
- Excludes.: dysphagia (R13) epidemic myalgia (B33.0) pain in: breast (N64.4)
- neck (M54.2)
- sore throat (acute) NOS (J02.9)
- R07.0 Pain in throat
- R07.1 Chest pain on breathing
  - Incl.: Painful respiration
- R07.2 Precordial pain
- R07.3 Other chest pain
  - Incl.: Anterior chest-wall pain NOS
- R07.9 Chest pain, unspecified

If you look at the above tabular section, you can see coding conventions identical to those from ICD-9-CM. You can see NOS which means Not Otherwise Specified, Incl which means Includes and excludes which means these medical conditions are not included in this code. Code R07.4 has no coding conventions or additional information, so, based on the medical record documentation of chest pain, we can select R07.4. Again, if you can code ICD-9, you can code ICD-10. If you don’t have the training in the process of coding, you won’t be able to code under ICD-10.

**CODING CHAPTERS**

Under ICD-9-CM, you have the following:

- Chapter 1: Infectious and Parasitic Diseases (001-139)
- Chapter 2: Neoplasms (140-239)
- Chapter 3: Endocrine, Nutritional, and Metabolic Diseases and Immunity Disorders (240-279)
- Chapter 4: Diseases of Blood and Blood Forming Organs (280-289)
- Chapter 5: Mental Disorders (290-319)
- Chapter 6: Diseases of Nervous System and Sense Organs (320-389)
- Chapter 7: Diseases of Circulatory System (390-459)
Chapter 8: Diseases of Respiratory System (460-519)
Chapter 9: Diseases of Digestive System (520-57
Chapter 10: Diseases of Genitourinary System (580-629)
Chapter 11: Complications of Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Puerperium (630-677)
Chapter 12: Diseases Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue (680-709)
Chapter 13: Diseases of Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue (710-739)
Chapter 14: Congenital Anomalies (740-759)
Chapter 15: Newborn (Perinatal) Guidelines (760-779)
Chapter 16: Signs, Symptoms and Ill-Defined Conditions (780-799)
Chapter 17: Injury and Poisoning (800-999)
Chapter 18: Classification of Factors Influencing Health Status and Contact with Health Service (Supplemental V01-V84) and Supplemental Classification of External Causes of Injury and Poisoning (E-codes, E800-E999)

Under ICD-10, you have the following:

Chapter 1: Certain infectious and parasitic diseases (A00-B99)
Chapter 2: Neoplasms (C00-D48)
Chapter 3: Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism (D50-D89)
Chapter 4: Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases (E00-E90)
Chapter 5: Mental and behavioral disorders (F01-F99)
Chapter 6: Diseases of the nervous system (G00-G99)
Chapter 7: Diseases of the eye and adnexa (H00-H59)
Chapter 8: Diseases of the ear and mastoid process (H60-H95)
Chapter 9: Diseases of the circulatory system (I00-I99)
Chapter 10: Acute upper respiratory infections (J00-J06)
Chapter 11: Diseases of oral cavity and salivary glands (K00-K14)
Chapter 12: Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue (L00-L99)
Chapter 13: Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue (M00-M99)
Chapter 14: Diseases of the genitourinary system (N00-N99)
Chapter 15: Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium (O00-O99)
Chapter 16: Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period (P00-P96)
Chapter 17 Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities (Q00-Q99)
Chapter 18: Symptoms and signs involving the circulatory and respiratory systems (R00-R09)
Chapter 19: Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes (S00-T98)
Chapter 20: External causes of morbidity (V01-Y98)
Factors influencing health status and contact with health services (Z00-Z99)

E Codes will become V-Y Codes
V Codes will become Z Codes.

The Table of Drugs and Biologicals that were 900 series codes and E Codes are now T Codes.
The Table of Drugs and Biologicals that were 900 series codes and E Codes are now T Codes.
There were 18 Chapters in ICD-9-CM and we have 20 chapters under ICD-10-CM.

The effective date for ICD-10 is October 1, 2015.

The key to the successful use and transition to ICD-10 is going to ensure our Providers are aware of their responsibility towards better documentation of the patient’s medical condition(s).

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