

Internal Medicine Coding Alert

New ICD-9 Codes Take Effect October 1

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and the American Hospital Association have published revisions to the ICD-9 (International Classification of Diseases-Ninth Revision). These changes will take effect Oct. 1, 1998, according to information from the Health Care Financing Administration and the NCHS.

As is usually the case, there were no deletions from the ICD-9, but several codes were expanded to include a fifth-digit specification, says **Amy Blum**, a medical classification specialist at NCHS.

Note: A complete list of the additions and changes to the ICD-9 is available on the National Center for Health Statistics web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchswww>.