

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

ICD-9 CODING: Oncology, Diabetes Top Proposed ICD-9 Codes

New diagnosis codes could be effective Oct. 1, if approved

If you've got high hopes that you'll have a lot of new ICD-9 codes to use starting this fall, CMS may deliver, with a proposal to debut over 300 new diagnosis codes.

CMS will publish the full listing of ICD-9 codes in the April 30 Federal Register, but released the changes that the agency proposes in the 2009 Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems document (available at www.cms.hhs.gov/AcuteInpatientPPS/downloads/CMS-1390-P.pdf).

Leukemia: You'll find dozens of new leukemia codes on the list, which expand diagnosis coding options for this disease. For instance, new code 207.02 (Acute erythremia and erythroleukemia, in relapse) is more specific than the 2007 code 207.0x (Acute arythremia and erythroleukemia).

Oncology: The 2009 ICD-9 manual could feature an entirely new section, if the proposed codes are made final this August.

The new oncology code section is in the 209.00 to 209.69 range, with 43 new codes that represent both malignant and benign carcinoid tumors of various sites.

Diabetes: CMS also proposes introducing 20 new codes to represent secondary diabetes conditions (249.00-249.91).

-We're seeing more and more secondary diabetes cases, so these codes will be useful,- says **Randall Karpf** with **East Billing**.

Headaches: You'll find an expanded section in the proposed ICD-9 codes that represent headache and migraine codes such as 346.43 (Menstrual migraine, with intractable migraine, so stated, with status migrainosus) and 339.85 (Primary stabbing headache).

Pap tests: You'll also find an expanded section for Papanicolaou smear tests in the 795.x and 896.x range. New codes in this category include 795.13 (Papanicolaou smear of vagina with low grade squamous intraepithelial lesion [LGSIL]), and 795.15 (Vaginal high risk human papillomavirus [HPV] DNA test positive), among others.

-These will be helpful with the new focus on HPV diagnosis and prevention that we're seeing practices focus on,- Karpf says.

Most of the deletions are simply diagnoses that will be replaced by more specific codes. For instance, V15.5 (Personal history of injury) will be deleted, but new code V15.59 (Personal history of other injury) will take its place.

Look to the Insider for more information about the ICD-9 codes that will take effect in October. We'll be keeping an eye on the approval process and will let you know as soon as the finalized list of diagnosis codes are approved.