

Part B Insider (Multispecialty) Coding Alert

Icd-9 Coding Quiz Answers: Quiz Answers: Are you Up to Date With the New ICD-9 Codes?

Carriers just started requiring the 2009 ICD-9 codes, but if you don't report them correctly, your claims will be denied.

Are your ICD-9 coding skills current with the new diagnosis coding guidelines? Check your answers here after you've finished the quiz on the previous page.

Did Headache Codes Change?

Answer 1: False. The new edition of ICD-9 created dozens of new headache codes, so you're no longer left using 784.0 (Headache) for all of your headache coding needs.

Instead, you'll report 339.02 (Chronic cluster headache) for this visit, says **Janet Woods**, coder with **Neurology Associates** in Chicago.

You'll note that the ICD-9 manual now also includes additional specific headache codes such as 339.81 (Hypnic headache), 339.83 (Primary cough headache), and 339.85 (Primary stabbing head-ache) to improve precision on your claims.

"The addition of the 339.x series is going to be huge for all of us out there in the neurology world this year," Woods says. "The only hitch is that you might have to go back and confirm specific headache diagnoses with your physician because he may not be accustomed to differentiating between things like episodic and chronic headaches," she says.

Is Fifth Digit Required?

Answer 2: False. The latest edition of the ICD-9 manual did not change the diagnosis code or descriptor for 206.1 (Monocytic leukemia; chronic); however, carriers do now require a fifth digit for this code.

Therefore, you'll report 206.12 (Monocytic leukemia; chronic; in relapse) to describe the patient's condition accurately.

Look for Plantar Wart Code

Answer 3: True. Although in the past you had to lump plantar warts under other specified code 078.19 (Other specified viral warts), the new edition of the ICD-9 manual offers the new code 078.12 (Plantar wart) to practices.

Catch this: If you spot verruca plantaris in chart notes, equate this with plantar warts. The formal Latin term "verruca plantaris," which is an infection caused by human papilloma virus (HPV), will be moved from under 078.19 to under 078.12.

Know Pap Smear Digits

Answer 4: False. If you report 795.1 (Abnormal Papanicolaou smear of vagina and vaginal HPV), "your carrier will deny



the claim because as of Oct. 1, 795.1 is considered a truncated code," says **Jay Neal**, a coding and billing consultant in Atlanta.

Instead, you'll report 795.11 (Papanicolaou smear of vagina with atypical squamous cells of undetermined significance [ASC-US]) for this patient's Pap results.

Keep in mind: The new ICD-9 manual added nine additional Pap smear codes as well.

Get Pneumonia Dx on Track

Answer 5: **True.** Unlike in the past, when you had to use the generic code 997.3 (Respiratory complications) for this type of pneumonia, new pneumonia code 997.31 (Ventilator associated pneumonia) can better describe the source of the patient's pneumonia in this situation.

The new ICD-9 manual also added an additional code in the 997.3 category -- 997.39 (Other respiratory complications), which includes such conditions as pneumonia that resulted from a procedure.