

MDS Alert

MDS & Billing News ~ Make way for a slew of new ICD-9-CM codes come October.

You'll change the way you code for dysphagia, lymphomas, transient ischemic attacks (TIAs) and more.

The new ICD-9 codes for 2008, recently released by the **Centers for Disease Control & Prevention** (CDC), take effect Oct. 1 -- with no grace period. Additional codes may be added to the list between now and October, but most of 2008's new additions are available now. Starting Oct. 1, 787.2 (Dysphagia) becomes an invalid code. Instead, select one of the new five-digit codes in the 787.20-787.29 range. These will let you specify whether the dysphagia is oral phase, oropharyngeal phase, pharyngeal phase or pharyngoesophageal phase when you have these details in a resident's medical record.

Check with speech-language pathologists: You may get these dysphagia details from an SLP after an assessment or swallowing study, so you can code more specifically. But in many cases, you'll likely report dysphagia with 787.20 (Dysphagia, unspecified).

Source: Eli's SNF ICD-9 Alert. For subscribing information, call 1-800-508-2582.