

## Chiropractic Coding & Compliance Alert

### Reader Question: How to Interpret NEC and NOS in ICD-10

**Question:** I was looking at the ICD-10-CM manual, and I noticed NEC and NOS. I know they stand for Not Elsewhere Classifiable (NEC) and Not Otherwise Specified (NOS), but how should I use them in ICD-10-CM?

California Subscriber

**Answer:** Like ICD-9, the NEC (Not Elsewhere Classifiable) abbreviation contains codes for "other" types of specified conditions that haven't already been classified. When your physician doesn't clearly specify the condition, you can use a NOS (Not Otherwise Specified) code □ although payers usually frown upon this process.