



# ICD-10 FACTS

## What is ICD-10?

ICD-10 is a diagnostic coding system implemented in 1993 by the World Health Organization (WHO) to replace ICD-9. This code set is scheduled to replace ICD-9 CM, our current U.S. diagnostic code set, on October 1, 2014.

## Why is the United States moving to ICD-10-CM?

Medical science keeps making new discoveries, and there are no numbers to assign these diagnoses in ICD-9-CM. Detailed codes of ICD-10-CM, will allow for better analysis of disease patterns and treatment outcomes that can advance medical care.

## How is ICD-10-CM different from our current system?

In many ways, ICD-10-CM is quite similar to ICD-9-CM. The guidelines, conventions, and rules are very similar. The organization of the codes is very similar. Anyone who is qualified to code ICD-9-CM should be able to make the transition to ICD-10-CM.

ICD-9 CM Diagnosis Codes	ICD-10 CM Diagnosis Codes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-5 characters in length</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-7 characters in length</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately 14,000 codes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately 69,000 available codes</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First character may be alpha (E or V) or numeric; characters 2-5 are numeric</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First character is alpha; characters 2 &amp; 3 are numeric; characters 4-7 are alpha or numeric</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lacks detail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very specific</li> </ul>

To ensure the ICD-10 coding education is retained through the October 1, 2014, implementation date, we recommend waiting until at least late 2013 to begin comprehensive ICD-10 coding training.

For the most up-to-date information visit: [www.aapc.com](http://www.aapc.com)

If you have any questions, please contact:

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