

Changes to ICD-10-CM

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Each year, the ICD-10-CM codes used for diagnoses are updated. Codes are added or edited but rarely deleted. Beginning in April 2023, the ICD-10-CM code set will be updated twice a year with the changes effective on April 1 and October 1.

For April 2023, there were a few codes added for Chapter 19, 20 and 21. The majority of changes that might impact Optometry were in Chapter 21 for the coding of the Social Determinants of Health. See the [Tabular Listing Addendum](#) for April 2023 to review those changes.

The changes to be implemented in October 2023 impact several codes that are more commonly used by Optometry. Please see the attachment for the excerpts of the October Tabular Addendum for those codes impacting your practices and the [October 2023 ICD-10-CM changes](#) for the complete listing for changes that will be implemented on October 2023.

Of note, there is a new code added for Other Retinal Disorders in Diseases classified elsewhere (H36.8) which include new codes for proliferative and non-proliferative Sickle Cell retinopathy. There were significant changes to the Mechanical Strabismus Codes (H 50.6) that describe which ocular muscle is impacted, per eye. And the addition of H57.8A codes for foreign body sensation eye (ocular).

When using any code that you do not regularly use, it is important to find the code in the Alphabetic Index (Index of Diseases and Injuries) first, then read any Guidelines that might be applicable to that specific code and then find the actual code in the Tabular Listing to ensure you are choosing the code that properly describes the condition that your patient may have, following all coding directions, and using the appropriate number of codes required. If you simply try to look up a code in the Tabular Listing without going through the proper steps, you may end up incorrectly coding the condition.

Providers should keep in mind that ICD-10-CM has published another index that might be useful. The index of External Causes of Injuries or E-Index is an alphabetic index of all the external causes you may need when coding for an injury.

ICD-10-CM also publishes two other tables that providers may find useful. The first is the Table of Neoplasms which can aid you in coding different stages of neoplasms. This table lists the different neoplasms and then adds several columns for neoplasms that are considered the Primary malignancy, Secondary malignancy, Cancer in situ, Benign Neoplasms, Neoplasms of Uncertain Behavior and Neoplasms of Unspecified Behavior. Since each of these classifications are coded differently and can be in different sections of the Tabular listing, this table can be most helpful in assuring you have the assigned the proper code to the patient's condition. The second table that is helpful is the Table of Drugs and Chemicals. This table can be used when the condition to be coded is related to the use of a drug or chemical that has caused a symptom or condition. The various classifications of complications include Accidental (unintentional) poisoning, Intentional (self-harm) poisoning, Poisoning due to an assault, Undermined poisoning type, an Adverse effect of a drug or chemical or from the Underdosing of a drug or chemical.

If you have not read the ICD-10-CM guidelines, I encourage you to do so because there is a significant amount of information presented that can be helpful in deepening your understanding of the proper application of codes. A couple of specific reminders for coding that are not really new. First, in order to properly stage glaucoma, a visual field must be performed. Until the visual field has been done, the code should be listed using a "4" as the seventh character to describe an indeterminate stage. The second reminder is that all of the medications a diabetic patient is taking should be coded using.

Z79.4 Long term (current) use of insulin

Z79.85 Long-term (current) use of injectable non-insulin antidiabetic drugs

Z79.84 Long term (current) use of oral hypoglycemic drugs

You can download all of ICD-10-CM codes from the [CDC website](#) for free. I suggest downloading the Full PDF version which is the second option on this site. Happy Coding....