

# Big Chill: Just One New ICD-9-CM Code Added During Current Freeze

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**New, deleted, and revised ICD-9-CM codes** are included every year in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) annual update to the Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS). But only one new ICD-9-CM code, effective October 1, 2012, has been added to the code set due to the ongoing coding freeze enacted by the government in light of the upcoming ICD-10-CM/PCS conversion.

The new procedure code, **00.95** (Injection or infusion of glucarpidase), was added because it describes new technology. Glucarpidase (Voraxaze®) is used to treat cancer patients with toxic levels of methotrexate in their blood due to impaired renal function.

The new procedure code is listed in Table 6B (New Procedure Codes) for the FY 2013 IPPS final rule. There were no changes made to the ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes.

Related to the new procedure code in ICD-9-CM, the 2013 version of the ICD-10-PCS code set contains two new procedure codes: 3E033GQ (Introduction of Glucarpidase into Peripheral Vein, Percutaneous Approach) and 3E043GQ (Introduction of Glucarpidase into Central Vein, Percutaneous Approach).

CMS' ICD-9-CM Coordination and Maintenance Committee implemented a partial freeze of the ICD-9-CM, ICD-10-CM, and ICD-10-PCS codes prior to the implementation of ICD-10-CM/PCS. Updates will only occur to capture new technologies and diseases. The last regular, annual update to the ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM/PCS code sets occurred on October 1, 2011.

The Department of Health and Human Services issued a final rule in August that officially delayed the implementation date for ICD-10-CM/PCS to October 1, 2014. Pat Brooks, RHIA, senior technical advisor for CMS, indicated in her remarks at the 2012 ICD-10 Summit held in April that the partial code freeze would remain throughout the ICD-10-CM/PCS implementation delay. Since the CMS committee originally planned for regular updates to resume one year after the initial implementation deadline, the code freeze will now likely melt on October 1, 2015.

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