

Transitioning From E Codes in ICD-9-CM to V, W, X, Y Codes in ICD-10-CM

Save to myBoK

By Melanie Endicott

ICD-9-CM includes a supplemental section, E codes, to describe the external causes of injuries and poisonings. These codes are secondary codes for use in any health care setting, which are used to provide data for injury research and evaluation of injury prevention strategies. E codes capture how an injury, poisoning, or adverse effect happened (cause), the intent (unintentional or accidental; or intentional, such as suicide or assault), the place where the event occurred, the activity of the patient at the time of the event, and the place where the event occurred.

In ICD-10-CM, the E codes have moved to Chapter 20: External Causes of Morbidity (V01-Y99). The external cause codes are used essentially the same in ICD-10-CM as they are in ICD-9-CM, with a few modifications as shown below.

When to Use External Cause Codes

In ICD-9-CM, E codes are only assigned on the initial encounter, whereas in ICD-10-CM, the external cause codes are used for the length of the treatment. Seventh characters are provided to describe the encounter—initial, subsequent, or sequela. There are no seventh characters in ICD-9-CM.

No External Cause Code Needed in Certain Circumstances

No external cause code from ICD-10-CM Chapter 20 is needed if the external cause and intent are included in a code from another chapter, such as **T42.3X1A**, Poisoning by barbituates, accidental, intentional, initial encounter. This is a new guideline for ICD-10-CM.

ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-CM Code Comparisons

The structure of the external cause codes has changed from ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-CM. The table below includes a few examples that illustrate the changes.

Documentation	ICD-9-CM Code	ICD-10-CM Code
Fall from ladder, initial encounter	E881.0 , Fall from ladder	W11.XXXA , Fall on and from ladder, initial encounter
Motorcycle driver injured in collision with a van on the interstate, initial encounter	E812.2 , Motor vehicle traffic accident (collision), motorcyclist	V23.4XXA , Motorcycle driver injured in collision with car, pick-up truck or van in traffic accident, initial encounter
Struck by baseball bat, subsequent encounter (follow-up visit for fracture care)	No E code assigned (only assigned on initial visit in ICD-9-CM)	W21.11XD , Struck by baseball bat, subsequent encounter

An important note to keep in mind is that there is no national requirement for mandatory external cause reporting in ICD-9-CM or ICD-10-CM. However, there are some state-based external cause reporting mandates and providers are encouraged to voluntarily report external cause codes, as they provide valuable data for injury research and evaluation of injury prevention strategies.

References

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. 2014 ICD-9-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd/icd9cm_addenda_guidelines.htm#guidelines.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. 2014 ICD-10-CM Official Guidelines for Coding and Reporting. http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/icd10cm_guidelines_2014.pdf.

Melanie Endicott, MBA/HCM, RHIA, CDIP, CCS, CCS-P, FAHIMA, is senior director of HIM practice excellence, coding and CDI products development at AHIMA. She has over 15 years experience in HIM and coding, with her most recent focus being in ICD-10-CM/PCS, and has presented numerous times at the regional, state, and national levels on HIM and coding topics. She was previously a director of HIM practice excellence, focusing on coding products, resources, and education, at AHIMA. Melanie is an AHIMA-approved ICD-10-CM/PCS trainer and an ICD-10 Ambassador.

Original source:

Endicott, Melanie. "Transitioning From E Codes in ICD-9-CM to V, W, X, Y Codes in ICD-10-CM" ([Journal of AHIMA website](#)), August 13, 2014.

Driving the Power of Knowledge

Copyright 2022 by The American Health Information Management Association. All Rights Reserved.