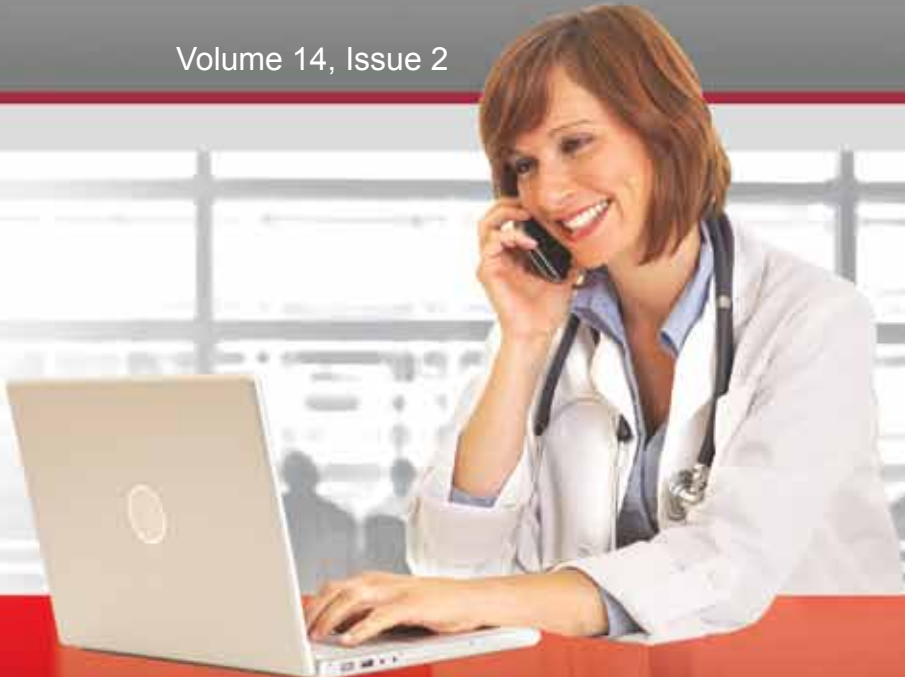




ADVISOR

Medical Billing & Compliance
Bimonthly Newsletter



The AcSel Advisor is now available via email. Just email, info@acselmedical.com and place the word “**Advisor**” in the subject field to receive your copy!

Inside this issue:

NEWS BULLETIN- ICD-10-CM	1
ICD - 10 Corner	2
TRAINING- LIKE A JIGSAW PUZZLE	2
MANY LAYERS OF ICD-10-CM	3
FORMAT & STRUCTURE OF ICD-10-CM	3
PLACE HOLDERS	3
Can You Code It?	4

NEWS BULLETIN



How long have we been told that a new diagnostic coding system, ICD-10, is going to be implemented and replace the one that we have used for years? Well, it seems that the time have finally arrived and there will be no more delays by CMS.

Hopefully, you are not one of those that keep saying, “This is not going to happen. We will be told two weeks before October 1, 2015 that there will be another delay. I am not going to stress over this and add extra work, costs and wasted time again on training and changing my system that works.”

WRONG-now is the time you need to review the checklist below and see where you fall.

CURRENT SYSTEM- can it accommodate ICD-9 and ICD-10 code sets?	EHR	COSTS INVOLVED- many areas to consider	Training - providers and staff
	Practice Management		IT upgrades
	Clearinghouse-has testing been done?		Cash flow disruption
	Different Payers-which ones will accept the ICD-10 codes or still require use of ICD-9:		

ICD-10-CM NEWS CORNER

NEWS UPDATE.. CMS has issued a rule finalizing October 1, 2015 as the new compliance date for health care providers, health plans, and health care clearinghouses to transition to ICD-10.

AcSel Medical Solutions is here to provide education to you, your staff and your providers. We are available to do five (5) charts per provider at \$20.00 per chart which includes a report of our findings - is the documentation compliant, noncompliant or not coded to the highest level of specificity.

Education to your staff and providers is considered a consultation charge. Please call **AcSel Medical Solutions** for details and rates.

Don't let **ICD-10** take a bite out of your cash flow. Let AcSel's team of experts help lead you through the change.

We can help you with documentation reviews, **ICD-10** education, implementation of the new coding guidelines, and any other revenue cycle management services your practice may need.

Call us today:

1-800-336-3038

or email us at

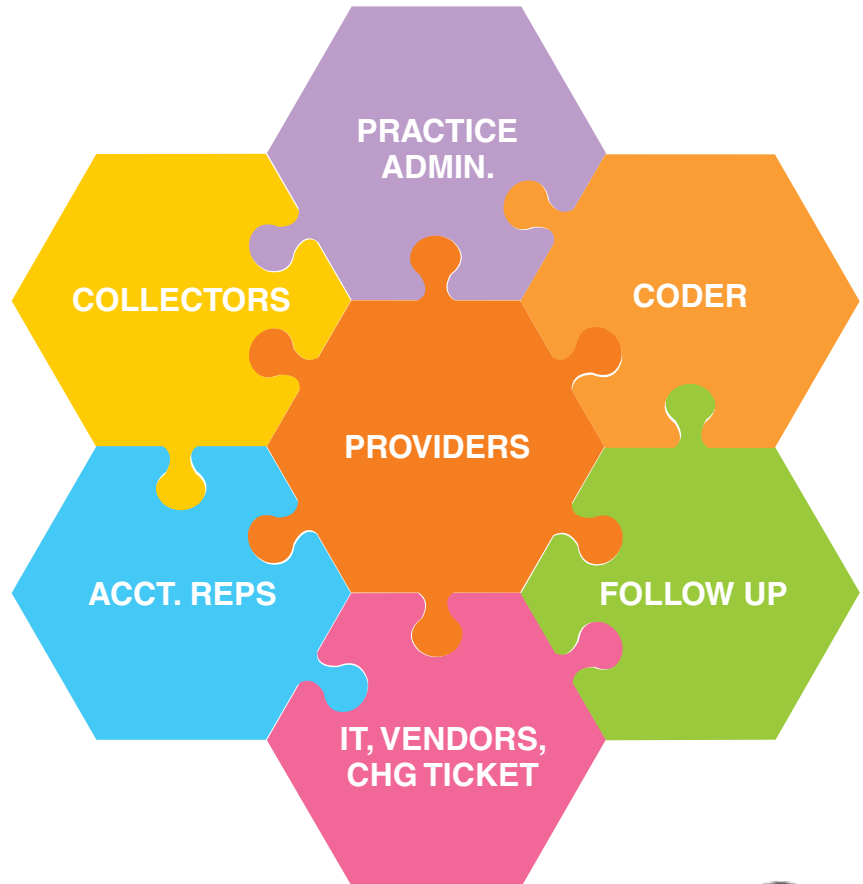
info@acselmedical.com

Let us add you to our mailing list for

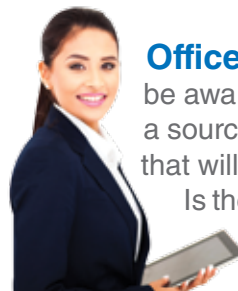
**FREE ACSEL
ADVISOR
NEWSLETTER**

TRAINING - IT'S LIKE A JIGSAW PUZZLE

ARE YOUR PIECES FITTING TOGETHER?



PROVIDERS: Are you ready for your claims to be delayed or not paid at all due to lack of documentation? Is their documentation today compliant to be able to code accurately to ICD-10? Have you reviewed any existing documentation and coded with ICD-10 codes?



Office Administrator: Every Office Administrator should be aware of the major changes within the office. Do you have a source that she can rely on to help answer all the questions that will be coming her way from the Providers and the Staff?

Is there a back-up to her position that will be able to answer all these questions as well? Have the charge tickets been reviewed and prepared for implementation?

Staff Coder(s): Are they Certified? Have they passed their certification to be accredited as a competent ICD-10 Coder? Are they prepared to work with both code sets and know what the various carriers will require?





Many layers of ICD-10-CM

Still two main parts but now Letters, Numbers & Placeholders

MAIN PARTS OF ICD-10 Really no change from the ICD-9 book that is so familiar to us all

- > INDEX - an alphabetical list of terms and their corresponding code
- > TABULAR LIST - a sequential, alphanumeric list of codes divided into chapters based on body system or condition

FORMAT AND STRUCTURE OF ICD-10-CM

- > Tabular list contains categories, subcategories, and codes. Characters for categories, subcategories and codes may be either a letter or a number.
- > All CATEGORIES are 3 characters. A 3-character category that has no further subdivision is equivalent to a code.
- > SUBCATEGORIES are either 4 or 5 characters. Codes may be 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7 characters.

That means that each level of subdivision after a category is a 'subcategory.'

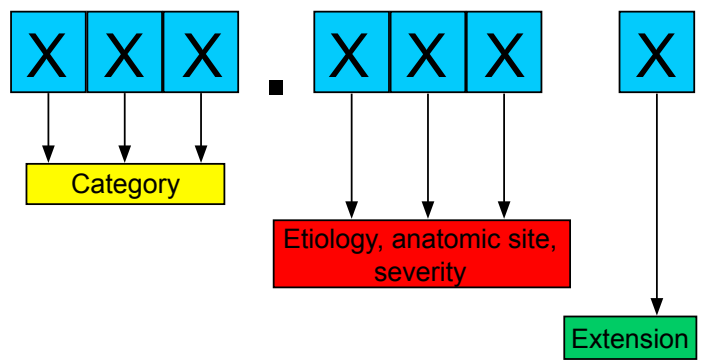
- > The final level of subdivision is a CODE. Codes that have applicable 7th character are still referred to as codes, not subcategories.
- > A Code that has an applicable 7th character is considered invalid without the 7th character.

PLACEHOLDER CHARACTER

- > ICD-10-CM uses a placeholder character "X".
- > The 'X' is used on certain codes to allow for future expansion.
- > When a placeholder exists, the X must be used in order for the code to be considered a valid code.

Seventh Character

- > Some categories have applicable 7th characters.
- > This character is required for all codes within the category, or as the notes in the Tabular List instruct.
- > The 7th character must always be used in the 7th character data field.
- > If a code that requires a 7th character is not 6 characters, a placeholder X must be used to fill in the empty characters.



Worried about how ICD-10 will affect your revenue cycle?

The transition will affect more than the coding aspect of medical billing. AMS provides the tools, processes and services necessary to prepare your practice for a smooth transition.

Call 1-800-336-3038 or email us at info@acselmedical.com for more information.



Can you *Code* it...???

It is important to know the main body systems and understanding the components, the major combining form (medical terms) and their major function whether you are selecting a CPT or a diagnosis code. Let's continue with:: RESPIRATORY System-what are the major combining forms listed below best describe this system?

- A. Nose, lungs, naso/rhino, pneumo
- B. Naso,/rhino, trachea, pharyngo, larynx, trachea
- C. Naso/rhino, pharyngo, trachea, laryngo, pneumo

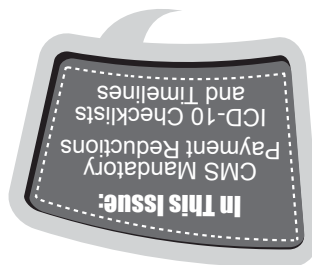
LAST ISSUE'S ANSWERS: Answer "B"...Nose, Pharynx, Trachea, Larynx and Lungs.

Find us on the web: www.acsel.org



Since 1977, **AcSel Medical Solutions** has provided world class billing services throughout the U.S. to practices such as yours. Our seasoned staff of expert billing professionals is able to assist your practice in all aspects of the business of medicine, in all sub-specialties. Acsel is committed to competent, compliant processes that maximize our clients' cash flow.

For more information, or to meet with one our consultants, call 800-336-3038



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