



THE ROAD TO ICD-10

7-DIGIT CODES

Beginning with the fourth character in an ICD-10-CM code, subcategories are added. These define the axis of classification by describing site, etiology, or the treatment level for the disease. Each subcategory requires specific documentation regarding the disease process to support the corresponding character.

The new documentation adds specificity and accuracy to the ICD-10-CM code.

Please note that if present:

- The 5th character requires documentation regarding the type of complication present
- The 6th character requires documentation of the device (e.g., vascular vs. cardiac device)
- The 7th character requires documentation indicating an initial encounter

The codes in ICD-10-CM can be up to seven characters in length. Three-character codes are also present and work the same way as in ICD-9-CM. In rare instances, these are complete codes. However, more commonly they are CATEGORY codes which require 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th character codes for greater medical specificity.

To show this specificity, here are some of the codes in ICD-10-CM for an acute embolism and thrombosis of deep veins of the lower extremities.

I82.411 - Acute embolism and thrombosis of right femoral vein.

I82.412 - Acute embolism and thrombosis of left femoral vein.

I82.413 - Acute embolism and thrombosis of femoral vein, bilateral.

I82.419 - Acute embolism and thrombosis of unspecified femoral.

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