



## THE ROAD TO ICD-10

### ***ICD-9-CM***

- Consists of three to five characters
- First character is numeric or alpha (E or V)
- Second, third, fourth, and fifth characters are numeric
- Always at least three characters
- Decimal placed after the first three characters

### ***ICD-10-CM***

- Consists of three to seven characters
- First character is alpha
- All letters used except U
- Second and third characters are numeric
- Fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh characters can be alpha or numeric
- Decimal placed after the first three characters

### **The Difference in Appearance**

**ICD-10-CM looks different than ICD-9-CM in its organization and structure, code composition, and level of detail.**

**However, the general format, hierarchical structure, and code assignment will be familiar.**