



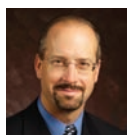
ICD-9 Changes in 2008

■ DAVID STERN, MD, CPC

Q. I noticed that I am getting rejections for the code for fever (780.6). Do I need to add another diagnosis code to get paid?

A. There are numerous separate issues related to this code:

- First, every year ICD-9 updates go into effect on October 1. This year was no exception. This code is now sub-categorized as follows:
 - 780.60 Fever, unspecified
 - 780.61 Fever presenting with conditions classified elsewhere
 - 780.62 Postprocedural fever
 - 780.63 Postvaccination fever
 - 780.64 Chills (without fever)
 - 780.65 Hypothermia not associated with low environmental temperature
- Second, 780.60 is a specific code that can be used to specify a diagnosis.
- Third, this code now requires five digits, so most payors will reject the old code for fever (780.6) if you do not add a fifth digit.
- Fourth, you should not use these fever codes along with a diagnosis of a “confirmed infection” that is causing a fever. Thus, it would *not* be appropriate to diagnose fever (780.60 or even 780.61) along with streptococcal pharyngitis (034.0) for the same patient visit.
- Fifth, do *not* use this code set for the following:
 - heat stroke and sunstroke (992.0)
 - heat syncope (992.1)
 - heat cramps (992.2)
 - heat exhaustion (992.3, 992.4 or 992.5)
 - or other conditions related to environmental heat (992.6-992.9)



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Q. Are there other important ICD-9 changes that are commonly used in the urgent care setting?

A. The short answer is “yes.” There are a number of changes to codes commonly encountered in urgent care. Let’s break them down and expand on them:

Hematuria

The code for hematuria (formerly 599.7) now requires five digits and is subdivided into the following:

- 599.70 Hematuria, unspecified
- 599.71 Gross hematuria
- 599.72 Microscopic hematuria

Dehiscence of Traumatic Wound Repair

Previously, no code was available to specify the dehiscence of a traumatic wound repair, as the codes available (998.31 and 998.32) referred only to dehiscence of an operative wound. Physicians may now use either:

- 998.30 Disruption of wound, unspecified
- 998.33 Disruption of traumatic wound repair

Vulvar Pain or Inflammation

New codes now exist for vulvar pain or inflammation:

- 625.70 Vulvodynia, unspecified
- 625.71 Vulvar vestibulitis
- 625.79 Other vulvodynia

For additional ICD-9 changes highly relevant to urgent care, refer to Coding Q & A at www.jucm.com. ■

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