

# Advisory Bulletin



Important Industry Information for our Valued Customers

## ICD 10 Coding

You may have recently received notification directly from CMS (Medicare) regarding the impending change from ICD 9 to ICD 10 Coding. This is another step the industry is taking towards a more data intensive EMS care model.

ICD 10 codes are used to describe diseases, signs and symptoms, complaints and external causes or injury. The concentration is on the provider impression with signs, symptoms and reasons to support. For billing purposes, there is a small set of ICD 9 Codes. There will be a much larger set of ICD 10 Codes required that will contain a more detailed explanation of the patient's impression, symptoms, etc.

### What This Means to Your Organization

Both the providers and the billing companies must be prepared to utilize the new ICD 10 Codes that become effective October 1, 2015.

As an example of how these codes may impact your organization:

- ICD 9 - 959.9 Unspecified injury of elbow, forearm and wrist

Possible ICD 10 Codes:

- S59.809A - Other specified injuries of unspecified elbow, initial encounter
- S69.80XA - Other specified injuries of unspecified wrist, hand and fingers
- S59.919A - Unspecified injury of unspecified forearm, initial encounter

14,000 ICD 9 Codes are being replaced with 70,000 ICD 10 Codes.

Compliance is imperative for your crew members; not only for billing but for clinical purposes as well.

A copy of your PCR will circulate throughout the receiving facility for continuity of care. It will serve to communicate observations and treatments to the provider. Without ICD 10 compliance, you can expect a lag in reimbursements and an increase in denials.

## **Our Recommendations**

1. Confirm with your EPCR Company that you will be ICD compliant prior to October 1, 2015.
2. Train your staff regarding the changes. Medicount relies on Page, Wolfberg & Wirth (PWW) for training. PWW has an excellent 3 part series that is available to purchase.

ICD 10 Coding is not just for billing purposes. It's up to you to make sure you and your crew members are fully prepared for the changes so that clinical documentation and billing are not affected.