



# International Classification of Diseases

## 10th Revision (ICD-10)

ICD-10 promotes international comparability in the collection, classification, processing, and presentation of mortality statistics.

### Implementation of ICD-10

The first release of data using the 10<sup>th</sup> Revision of the *International Classification of Diseases* (ICD) from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be the upcoming report on 1999 preliminary death statistics issued in the latter part of 2000. The ICD is a classification system developed collaboratively between the World Health Organization

(WHO) and 10 international centers so that the medical terms reported by physicians, medical examiners, and coroners on death certificates can be grouped together for statistical purposes. ICD-10 replaces the classification, ICD-9, used with 1979-98 data.

### Purpose of ICD-10

The purpose of the ICD and of WHO sponsorship is to promote international comparability in the collection, classification,

*continued on page 2*

processing, and presentation of mortality statistics. New revisions of the ICD are implemented periodically so that the classification reflects advances in medical science.

## Impact of the ICD-10

ICD-10 affects the classification, processing, and presentation of mortality data. Some titles have changed; the total number of categories has doubled as a result of the addition or deletion of terms used to describe diseases or conditions; the transfer of certain diseases from one section to another reflects new discoveries and advances in knowledge on the nature or cause of particular diseases; and the addition of separate categories identifies specific diseases or particular complications of certain diseases that are of growing interest. Additionally, the codes associated with each title have been converted from numeric to alphanumeric entities. The ICD rules for processing mortality data are generally similar but account for some changes observed in mortality statistics. The tabulation lists used to present mortality data

in routine tables have been revised to reflect the new classification.

## Frequently Asked Questions About the ICD-10

### 1. Why do we use ICD-10?

The United States is required to use the ICD for the classification of diseases and injuries under an agreement with WHO. By using the ICD, the U.S. collects, processes, and presents mortality data in a similar way to other countries around the world. This permits comparison of data across countries. Periodically, new revisions are developed to reflect advances in medical science.

### 2. Who administers ICD-10?

The ICD is developed collaboratively between the World Health Organization and 10 international centers, one of which is housed at NCHS and is called the WHO Collaborating Center for the Classification of Diseases in North America.

### 3. How does ICD-10 compare to ICD-9?

The intent of developing new revisions is to incorporate changes in medical knowledge. Each successive revision has a similar core to the

previous revision. Compared with ICD-9, ICD-10 has:

- expanded detail for many conditions (e.g., viral hepatitis has been expanded from ICD-9 070, a single 3-digit category, to ICD-10 B15-B19, five 3-digit categories)
- transferred conditions around the classification (e.g., hemorrhage has been moved from the circulatory chapter to the symptoms and signs chapter)
- used alphanumeric codes instead of numeric codes (e.g., code for diabetes mellitus was 250 in ICD-9 and is E10-E14 in ICD-10)
- modified coding rules (e.g., the "Old pneumonia, influenza, and maternal conditions" and "Error and accidents in medical care" coding rules have been eliminated)
- modified the tabulation lists (e.g., the US' ICD-10 113-cause list replaces the US' ICD-9 72-cause list)

The results of the preliminary comparability study (examines similar categories in successive revisions to measure the extent of breaks in trends caused by introducing a new ICD revision) is expected to be available by fall 2000.

#### **4. How do I obtain a copy of ICD-10?**

Electronic and bound versions can be purchased from WHO at [www.who.int/whosis/icd10/](http://www.who.int/whosis/icd10/); however, NCHS and the States are using a copy modified and corrected by NCHS. The NCHS version converts the English spellings to American spellings and incorporates changes made after the WHO version was published. A WHO copyright precludes NCHS from electronically distributing the ICD-10 version being used in the United States. NCHS lists of causes used to publish mortality data are available. The detailed each cause list can be obtained from the Web site at [ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health\\_Statistics/NCHS/Publications/ICD10/](ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/pub/Health_Statistics/NCHS/Publications/ICD10/) and the other tabulation lists can be found in Instruction Manual Part 9 at [www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/dvs/im.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/dvs/im.htm).

#### **5. When will ICD-11 be available?**

There are no immediate plans to develop an ICD-11. Beginning with ICD-10, WHO has set up a pilot mechanism to incorporate changes between revisions. The 10

international centers or other national health agencies submit recommendations for changes to WHO committees that have been set up expressly for this purpose.

## 6. What are leading causes of death in the United States for ICD-10?

The leading causes of death are determined using a specific tabulation list and rules for ranking. In ICD-10, the 113 cause list is used for ranking except when ranking infant causes separately. The leading causes of death for infants uses the 130 cause list. The specific causes of death eligible to be ranked are shown in the 113 and 130 cause lists in Instruction Manual Part 9 at [www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/dvs/im.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/dvs/im.htm). Ranking is based on the number of deaths for the specific causes eligible to be ranked.

## 7. What is the difference between ICD and ICD-CM?

The *International Classification of Diseases* (ICD) is the classification used to code and classify mortality data from death certificates. The *International Classification of Diseases, Clinical Modification* (ICD-CM) is used to code and

classify morbidity data from the inpatient and outpatient records and physician offices. The implementation date for the 10<sup>th</sup> revision of the clinical modification of ICD-10 (ICD-10-CM) has not been set yet.

## 8. How can one obtain assistance in using ICD-10?

Assistance in using the ICD-10 can be obtained by contacting NCHS's Data Dissemination Branch at: 6525 Belcrest Road Room 1064 Hyattsville, MD 20782-2003 (301) 458-4636 (Voice) (301) 458-4027 (Fax)

## For More Information about the ICD-10:

ICD-10 Web page at:  
[www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd9.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd9.htm)

NCHS mortality Web page at:  
[www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/dvs/mortdata.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/dvs/mortdata.htm)

NCHS Web site at:  
[www.cdc.gov/nchs/](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/)