ICD-10 Coding Primer

ICD-10 CM are diagnostic codes and ICD-10 PCS are procedural codes. There are twenty-two Chapters labeled from I to XXII. Categories with one letter A to Z are interwoven among the chapters. Two digits from 00-99 further define the letter. Most chapters have a single letter assigned to them, but not all (e.g. L89).

This document is a primer for ICD-10 CM diagnostic codes.

**Categories describe:**
- Specific body systems
- Special disease categories

**Categories:**
- A00-B99  Certain infectious and parasitic diseases
- C00-D49  Neoplasms
- D50-D89  Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism
- E00-E89  Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases
- F01-F99  Mental, behavioral and neuro-developmental disorders
- G00-G99  Diseases of the nervous system
- H00-H59  Diseases of the eye and adnexa
- H60-H95  Diseases of the ear and mastoid process
- I00-I99  Diseases of the circulatory system
- J00-J99  Diseases of the respiratory system
- K00-K95  Diseases of the digestive system
- L00-L99  Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue
- M00-M99  Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue
- N00-N99  Diseases of the genitourinary system
- O00-O9A  Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium
- P00-P96  Certain conditions originating in the peri-natal period
- Q00-Q99  Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities
- R00-R99  Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not classified elsewhere
- S00-T88  Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes
- V00-Y99  External causes of morbidity
- Z00-Z99  Factors influencing health status and contact with health services
Special Disease Categories are in six groups:
- Communicable diseases
- General diseases that affect the whole body
- Local diseases arranged by site
- Developmental diseases
- Injuries
- External causes

Special Disease Categories take priority over body system categories.

Cholera for example, is a systemic disease process, even though it affects a system (gut).
So Cholera is coded as a disease process, not as a gastrointestinal system disease – since it involves many organ systems.

Another example, a person with a lung neoplasm, is described as belonging to the group Chapter II Neoplasms instead of Chapter X Diseases of the Respiratory System.

The Nomenclature is set up according to this system:

A pressure sore of the buttock would be: L89.324 (there is no seventh extension).

Four steps are used for coding:
1. Determine the conditions that need to be coded.
2. Use Volume 3, the Alphabetical Index to locate the condition and allocate the code.
3. Use the Tabular List to confirm and refine the code (exclusions, inclusions, etc.).
4. Use the instruction manuals for specific rules on reporting.

World Health Organization (WHO), ICD-10 system creator, 4 “Golden Coding Rules”:
1. Volumes 1 and 3 need to be used together (Volume 2 contains the instructions)
2. The special disease categories take priority over specific body system categories.
3. The “Dagger” symbol (†) used as the underlying cause and the (*) relates two diseases.
4. Be careful of spelling (British spelling is used in Volume 1 in the Tabular List and American spelling is used in the Volume 3, the Alphabetical Index).
References:

Free Lookup of Codes:
http://www.icd10data.com/

WHO Ordering, Online lookup, Research Downloads, History:
http://www.who.int/classifications/icd/en/

WHO training module:
http://apps.who.int/classifications/apps/icd/icd10training/

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Summary:

American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA):
http://library.ahima.org/xpedio/groups/public/documents/ahima/bok1_038084.hcsp?dDocName=bok1_038084