



October 31, 2018

Ms. Donna Pickett  
Co-Chair, ICD-10-CM Coordination and Maintenance Committee  
National Center for Health Statistics  
3311 Toledo Road  
Hyattsville, MD20782

Re: Proposal to create ICD-10-CM codes for e-cigarette use

Dear Ms. Pickett:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), which represents 131,400 family physicians and medical students across the country, I write to express support for the proposal to create ICD-10-CM codes to report patient use of e-cigarette products.

As you know, [tobacco products](#) continue to be the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the U.S., killing 480,000 Americans each year. The ICD-10-CM system has a robust set of codes to record patient use of tobacco products – except e-cigarettes or electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS). As noted in several recent academic and lay press publications, ENDS are now a widely used nicotine product. Since 2014, ENDS have become the most commonly used nicotine product by [youth](#), and youth ENDS use rates continue to climb. In 2017, 11.7% of [high school students](#) reported using ENDS in the past 30 days, which is a 1.5% increase from 2011. Almost one-third - 30.7% - of teens who use ENDS start [smoking](#) traditional cigarettes within 6 months, compared to 8.1% of teens who do not use ENDS and begin smoking within 6 months. FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, MD, has labeled youth e-cigarette use an [“epidemic.”](#)

For these reasons, it is essential ICD-10-CM quickly adopt codes that allow physicians to accurately record e-cigarette use in youth and adult populations. Adoption of new codes will also prime physicians to discuss nicotine addiction, the [hazards](#) of e-cigarette use, and cessation methods with their patients. The data generated from the ICD-10-CM coding system will help support research efforts to better understand short and long-term health effects of e-cigarette use and may help public health officials better target efforts stop nicotine addiction.

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Ms. Pickett  
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We welcome the development of these codes and are confident the new codes will be appropriately used by our members. Please contact Robert Bennett, Federal Regulatory Manager, at 202-232-9033 or [rbennett@aafp.org](mailto:rbennett@aafp.org) with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Munger MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Michael L. Munger, MD, FAAFP  
Board Chair

### **About Family Medicine**

Family physicians conduct approximately one in five of the total medical office visits in the United States per year—more than any other specialty. Family physicians provide comprehensive, evidence-based, and cost-effective care dedicated to improving the health of patients, families, and communities. Family medicine's cornerstone is an ongoing and personal patient-physician relationship where the family physician serves as the hub of each patient's integrated care team. More Americans depend on family physicians than on any other medical specialty.