You've got until Oct. 1 to weed out incorrect codes.



Cindy Hughes, CPC

t is almost autumn in Kansas, and the corn continues to grow in some fields. The fall harvest is still a few weeks off. However, the farmers in my area will tell you that what happens now will determine the harvest's outcome.

Physician practices must think in the same way. The ICD-9 updates have been released, making this a good time to review your superbills for needed revisions. Doing this work now could save you the time and trouble of correcting and resubmitting claims that are denied because of out-of-date diagnosis codes.

What to remove

The following diagnosis codes will be invalid after Oct. 1, when they will be replaced by more specific ICD-9 codes:

• 276.5 Volume depletion,

- 287.3 Primary thrombocytopenia,
- 567.2 Other suppurative peritonitis,
- 567.8 Other specified peritonitis,
- 585 Chronic renal failure.
- 599.6 Urinary obstruction, unspecified,
- 770.1 Meconium aspiration syndrome,
- 799.0 Asphyxia,
- 996.4 Mechanical complication internal orthopedic device, implant and graft,
- V12.6 Personal history of disease of the respiratory system,
 - V17.8 Family history of other musculoskeletal disease,
- V26.3 Procreative management, genetic counseling and testing,
 - V58.1 Encounter for chemotherapy,
- V64.0 Vaccination not carried out because of contraindication.

Revised descriptors

Some codes will have their descriptors changed. Beginning Oct. 1, codes for hypertension will use the word "kidney" rather than "renal" and "chronic kidney disease" rather then "renal failure." Code 728.87 will be "Muscle weakness, generalized." Several sleep disturbance codes (780.5X) will include "unspecified" in the descriptors.

What to add

Many new diagnosis codes have been added. Among the new codes most pertinent to family medicine are three for reporting volume depletion:

- 276.50 Volume depletion, unspecified,
 - 276.51 Dehydration,
 - 276.52 Hypovolemia.

Code 278.02 has been added to identify a patient who is overweight, and V codes that identify the body mass index of patients over 20 years old are also now available. A table that links the in

available. A table that links the individual codes to the body mass index is included in the online version of this article, available at http://www.aafp.org/fpm/20050900/49icd9. html#box_b.

Other new V codes define more specifically the reasons vaccinations are not carried out. These five-digit codes take the place of V64.0:

- V64.00 Unspecified reason,
- V64.01 Because of acute illness,
- V64.02 Because of chronic illness or condition,
- V64.03 Because of immune compromised state,
- V64.04 Because of allergy to vaccine or component,
 - V64.05 Because of refusal of caregiver,
 - V64.06 Because of patient refusal,
 - V64.07 For religious reasons,
- V64.08 Because patient had disease being vaccinated against,

About the Author

Cindy Hughes is the coding and compliance specialist for the AAFP. Conflicts of interest: none reported.

ICD-9 CODING TOOLS

FPM's ICD-9 coding references have been updated to comply with the ICD-9 codes that take effect Oct. 1.

The short list

You'll find "ICD-9 Codes for Family Medicine: The Short List" on the preceding pages and online at http://www. aafp.org/x20096.xml. This list of about 600 codes commonly used in family medicine was developed by Donald Spencer, MD, MBA, and Allen Daugird, MD, MBA, family physicians and clinical associate professors at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and Philip S. Whitecar, MD, assistant professor of family medicine at Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

The long list

Drs. Whitecar, Spencer and Daugird have also updated "ICD-9 Codes for Family Medicine: The Long List," a list of about 1,500 codes that you can find online at http://www.aafp.org/x20096.xml.

The most common codes

The authors again this year have identified 100 ICD-9 codes that are especially common in family medicine. They are preceded by arrows in both lists.

• V64.09 For other reason.

Other new codes to note as you review the entire list are those relating to thrombocytopenia; sleep disorders including insomnia, hypersomnia and apnea; Long QT syndrome; erythromelalgia; fetal conditions including meconium passage during delivery, aspirations and staining; and other excessive crying. Category 799 has been replaced with 799.01 for asphyxia and 799.02 for hypoxemia. Many new codes have been added to indicate personal and family histories, most notably history of fall, V15.88. Finally, V62.84 is added for reporting suicidal ideation (which I hope you did not experience at the thought of code changes).

A complete list of these ICD-9 changes is available on the *Family Practice Management* Web site (see "ICD-9 Coding Tools," above). Sow these code changes into your coding practice, and you should be ready to harvest the reimbursements in October.

Send comments to fpmedit@aafp.org.

Dozens of ICD-9 codes will be deleted, added or revised on Oct. 1.

The new ICD-9 codes include three for reporting volume depletion.

By reviewing the changes now, you can spare yourself the aggravation of resubmitting claims that are denied because of invalid diagnosis codes.

BMI TABLE WITH ICD-9 V-CODE CROSS-REFERENCE

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1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	BMI	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
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97 102 107 112 118 123 128 133 138 143 148 153 158 163 168 163 168 168 163 168 168 168 168 168 168 168 168 168 169 174 178 168 163 169 174 179 178 178 169 174 179 178 178 169 174 179 178 169 179 179 180 174 179 178 169 179 179 180 179 180 179 180 179 180	4'11" (59")	94	66	104	109	114	119	124	128	133	138	143	148	153	158	163	168	173
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1 04 109 115 120 126 131 136 142 147 153 158 164 169 175 180 180 1 07 113 118 124 130 135 141 146 152 158 163 169 174 180 186 192 186 <td>5'1" (61")</td> <td>100</td> <td>106</td> <td>111</td> <td>116</td> <td>122</td> <td>127</td> <td>132</td> <td>137</td> <td>143</td> <td>148</td> <td>153</td> <td>158</td> <td>164</td> <td>169</td> <td>174</td> <td>180</td> <td>185</td>	5'1" (61")	100	106	111	116	122	127	132	137	143	148	153	158	164	169	174	180	185
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110 116 122 128 134 140 145 151 157 163 169 174 180 186 192 186 192 198 192 198 192 198 192 198 192 198 192 198 192 198 192 198 192 198 192 198 198 194 150 153 154 153 154 153 166 172 173 173 178 184 195 186 195 186 195 186 197 184 196 197 198 197 198 197 198 197 198 197 198 198 198 199 199 190 <td>5'3" (63")</td> <td>107</td> <td>113</td> <td>118</td> <td>124</td> <td>130</td> <td>135</td> <td>141</td> <td>146</td> <td>152</td> <td>158</td> <td>163</td> <td>169</td> <td>175</td> <td>180</td> <td>186</td> <td>191</td> <td>197</td>	5'3" (63")	107	113	118	124	130	135	141	146	152	158	163	169	175	180	186	191	197
114 120 126 132 134 150 156 165 162 168 174 180 186 192 198 198 118 124 130 136 142 148 155 161 167 173 179 186 192 198 204 201 118 121 134 140 146 153 159 166 177 184 190 197 203 204 217 218 204 203 209 216 217 218 189 196 202 209 216 223 229	5'4" (64")	110	116	122	128	134	140	145	151	157	163	169	174	180	186	192	197	204
118 124 130 136 142 155 161 167 173 179 186 192 198 204 201 121 121 134 140 146 153 159 166 172 178 185 191 198 204 211 121 125 131 138 144 151 158 164 171 177 184 190 197 203 203 210 211 212	5'5" (65")	114	120	126	132	138	144	150	156	162	168	174	180	186	192	198	204	210
1 121 125 134 146 153 159 166 172 178 185 191 198 204 211 1 125 131 138 144 151 158 164 171 177 184 190 197 203 210 216 216 216 216 216 216 216 216 216 216 216 217 218 189 195 202 209 216 222 229 229 229 229 226 229 226 229 226 229 236 226 229 236	5'6" (66")	118	124	130	136	142	148	155	161	167	173	179	186	192	198	204	210	216
1 125 131 138 144 151 158 164 171 177 184 190 197 203 201 216 216 216 216 176 176 182 189 196 203 209 216 223 224 223 224 223 224 223 224 223 224 223 224 223 224 224 225 224 224 225 224 224 225 224 224 225 224 224 224 224 224 224 224	5'7" (67")	121	127	134	140	146	153	159	166	172	178	185	191	198	204	211	217	223
1 128 135 142 155 162 169 176 182 189 196 203 209 216 223 229 ") 132 134 146 153 160 167 174 181 188 195 202 209 216 222 229 236 1 136 143 150 167 172 184 191 199 206 213 221 222 229 236 1 144 151 159 166 177 184 191 204 212 219 227 228 235 242 250 1 144 151 179 186 194 202 210 218 227 233 241 249 256 1 148 152 169 206 208 216 224 232 240 249 256 264	5'8" (68")	125	131	138	144	151	158	164	171	177	184	190	197	203	210	216	223	230
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136 143 150 165 172 179 186 193 200 208 215 222 229 236 140 140 147 164 162 169 177 184 191 199 206 213 221 228 235 242 242 144 151 159 166 174 182 189 197 204 218 219 225 233 241 249 256 251 148 152 163 176 184 192 200 208 216 224 232 240 248 256 254	5′10″ (70″)	132	139	146	153	160	167	174	181	188	195	202	209	216	222	229	236	243
140 147 154 162 169 177 184 191 199 206 213 221 228 235 242 144 151 159 166 174 182 189 197 204 212 219 227 235 242 250 148 155 163 171 179 186 194 202 210 218 225 233 241 249 256 256 152 160 168 176 184 192 200 208 216 224 232 240 248 256 264	5′11″ (71″)	136	143	150	157	165	172	179	186	193	200	208	215	222	229	236	243	250
144 151 159 166 174 182 194 204 212 219 227 233 241 250 250 148 155 163 171 179 186 194 202 210 218 225 233 241 249 256 152 160 168 176 184 192 200 208 216 224 232 240 248 256 264	6' (72")	140	147	154	162	169	177	184	191	199	206	213	221	228	235	242	250	258
148 155 163 171 179 186 194 202 210 218 225 233 241 249 256 152 160 168 176 184 192 200 208 216 224 232 240 248 256 264	6'1" (73")	144	151	159	166	174	182	189	197	204	212	219	227	235	242	250	257	265
152 160 168 176 184 192 200 208 216 224 232 240 248 256 264 264 264 264 264 264 264 264 264 26	6'2" (74")	148	155	163	171	179	186	194	202	210	218	225	233	241	249	256	264	272
	6'3" (75")	152	160	168	176	184	192	200	208	216	224	232	240	248	256	264	272	279