

Article Detail

Date: 03/18/2020

Title: New Code for ICD-10-CM to Capture COVID-19 will be Effective April 1, 2020

Healthcare Type: All

Source: New ICD-10-CM code for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), April 1, 2020
(<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/icd/Announcement-New-ICD-code-for-coronavirus-3-18-2020.pdf>;
<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd/icd10cm.htm>)

Abstract: ICD-10 Coordination and Maintenance Committee announces during their spring meeting that the CDC will be expediting implementation of a new ICD-10-CM code for COVID-19.

Article Text

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), the federal agency responsible for use of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) in the United States, has announced during the ICD-10 Coordination and Maintenance Committee (C&M) spring meeting on March 18, 2020, that it will be expediting implementation of a new ICD-10-CM code for COVID-19. This new code is U07.1 COVID-19 and will be effective April 1, 2020.

Originally this new code was slated for implementation on October 1, 2020, during the annual update of the ICD-10-CM classification. The implementation date was moved up in light of World Health Organization (WHO) declaring COVID-19 a pandemic and the United States declaring the COVID-19 outbreak a national emergency. The CDC states that although "this off-cycle update is unprecedented and is an exception to the code set updating process established and mandated under HIPAA, this code is urgently needed in order to accurately capture the reporting of this condition."

Although the CDC posted interim coding guidelines on how to properly code encounters related to COVID-19, these guidelines will no longer be relevant beginning April 1, 2020. It is expected that new or revised guidelines will be posted by March 20, 2020.

According to the information provided during the C&M meeting, beginning April 1, new code U07.1 should be listed first with additional codes for pneumonia or other manifestations, such as bronchitis, lower respiratory infection, or acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), applied as secondary diagnoses.