FoxFire systems group

ICD-10 Coding 101:
Coding Structure

ICD-10-CM Code Structure

On October 1, 2015, the current ICD-9 codes used to report medical diagnoses and inpatient procedures will be replaced with the new ICD-10 code sets. The new code sets allow for more detailed exam documentation and thorough patient care through improved evaluation, tracking and insight into diagnoses.

ICD-9-CM Diagnosis Codes	ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Codes
No Laterality	Laterality – Right or Left account for >40% of codes
3-5 Digits	7 Digits
No Placeholder Characters	"X" Placeholders
14,000 Codes	69,000 Codes
Limited Severity Parameters & Combination Codes	Extensive Severity Parameters & Combination Codes

Alpha (Not U) **Numeric** **Characters 3-7 Can Be Any Combination of Apha or Numeric**

1 **2** **3** . **4** **5** **6** **7**

Category Etiology, Anatomical Site, Severity Extension

Codes with three characters are included in ICD-10-CM as the heading of a category of codes that may be further subdivided by the use of any or all of the 4th, 5th and 6th characters. Digits 4-6 offer greater detail of etiology, anatomical site and severity.

Placeholders

A dummy placeholder of "X" is used with certain codes to allow for future expansion and/or to fill out empty characters when a code contains fewer than 6 characters and a 7th applies. When a placeholder character applies, it **must** be used in order for the code to be considered valid ("*ICD-10 Basics*", 2014).

Example: **H40.11X2 Primary open-angle glaucoma, moderate stage**

"ICD-10 Basics." *Road to 10: The Small Physician Practice's Route to ICD-10.* Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 2014. *www.roadto10.org/icd-10-basics*

FoxFire systems group