

THREE MAJOR REQUIREMENTS FOR CHIROPRACTORS THAT ARE AVAILABLE FREE AND ON-LINE

On October 1st, 2015 the requirement for ICD-10 coding is likely to come into effect. Those codes will be required by Medicare as well as many insurance carriers that fall under the HIPAA law. In 2016 the child abuse recognition and reporting CE credits will be due. Dependable resources to comply with these three major requirements are available free and on-line to chiropractors.

ICD-10 CODING- A TABULAR LIST OF ALL CODES, GUIDANCE EQUIVALENCE MAP, AND ICD-10-CM GUIDELINES

A full list of ALL ICD-10 codes, in tabular order and easy to access, is available free on the CMS.gov website. You should download the tabular list of codes, a GEM (Guidance Equivalence Map) to go from ICD-9 to ICD-10, and the Guidelines on how to use them.

The 2016 codes can be accessed by going to www.CMS.gov web page. Click on the top left indicator for “Medicare.” Look down the left side, progress to the heading of “Coding.” There will be an available listing there for “ICD-10” to click on. That leads to another list of topics on the left side. Go down to “2016 ICD-10-CM and GEMS” and click on that. You will get a list of several zipped files and pdf files.

- Click to download the “2016 Code Descriptions in Tabular Order.” This will give ALL ICD-10 codes in an easily accessible pdf file. I recommend the 2016 versions as there are only three months left in 2015 and you won't have to update again on December 31st.
- Go to the “2016 General Equivalence Mappings (GEMs)- Diagnosis Codes and Guides.” This is the crosswalk from ICD-9 to ICD-10 codes. You can download this file and reach the “ICD-9 to ICD-10 GEM.” By using the “Find” feature you can enter the old ICD-9 code and it will give you one or more ICD-10 equivalents. Note well, this program cannot accept decimals so enter your old codes without a decimal. Also, it will also list partial codes so make sure your results are limited to just the numerals you entered. Other pdf documents in this zipped file give more detail on how to use the GEMs.
- Go to the “2016 ICD-10-CM Guidelines.” It is a pdf file that gives an overview of using the new codes. It will help you understand the “includes” and “excludes” and details on topics and the preferred order to code.

With these three files you can “crosswalk” your most often used ICD-9 codes over to the choices that are generally equivalent in ICD-10. The Guidelines tell you the strategies to use, the tabular list gives the detail to know which of the ICD-10 codes are most appropriate for your clinical situation.

MEDICARE ICD-10 CODES THAT ARE ACCEPTED FOR CHIROPRACTIC CARE

Our Medicare carrier, Novitas Solutions, is required to publish the accepted codes for chiropractic care in a Local Coverage Determination. With the ICD-10 requirement they must publish a new LCD with all of the accepted new codes. The present LCD allows 44 codes and categories for care. The effective LCD for ICD-10 codes lists more than 340. You can download these codes and use them as a basis for coding for Medicare as well as other carriers.

Go to the Novitas website at www.Novitas-Solutions.com. Click on the JL jurisdiction at the Pennsylvania icon.

Set your preference to “Physicians, Part B.” On the left is a menu that you can go down and hover your cursor over “Medical Policy- LCDs.” That will allow several choices to display, click on “Active Policies.” Accept their terms, and view the available LCDs. The left column are the present LCDs that contain the ICD-9 codes, the right column are the future October policies containing the ICD-10 codes. Go down to “Chiropractic Services” and click on the LCD. Download it and review the list of acceptable primary (Medicare Subluxation) codes and the secondary (Medicare symptom) codes. This is a good start for the codes you will likely use in your office. Your software vendor is likely to have an update that contains all of these codes.

RECENT REPORTED STATUS OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION ELIMINATING THE PHILOSOPHICAL EXEMPTION FOR VACCINES IN PENNSYLVANIA

As our emails, website information, direct mailing and previous newsletter detailed there were two bills introduced in 2015 to eliminate the Philosophical Exemption to vaccines. SB 407 and HB 883 were publicized with press conferences and an attempt of favorable news coverage. The reality was that no supporters showed for the HB 883 conference and the sponsor did not stay for questions from the attendees that were against the legislation.

Recently the Patriot-News reported that both of these bills were not being released out of committee and were unlikely to be released. There had been quite a reaction against eliminating the philosophical exemption and the onerous rules put on the religious exemption. The Fellowship was joined by the Weston Price Foundation (our member Tedd Koren recently spoke at their Montgomery County gathering), ICA and ICPA members, PA Advocacy, Pennsylvanians for Medical Choice, Christian Homeschoolers of PA as well as others in opposing these changes.

It is likely that these bills will be introduced in future legislative sessions. At present we have an adequate funding in our Political Action Committee Fund, due to contributions during this crisis. If you would like to donate towards this fund to allow us to remain vigilant legislatively you may make a personal check (no corporate or business checks may be accepted) to “CFoP PAC.”

It is the position of the Fellowship that this is a matter of medical freedom and not a personal choice. The legislation proposed severely restricted the medical choices that the founders of the Fellowship established in the 1960s.