

The “**best of**” the
3M ICD-10 coding scenarios



More than 1,300 proactive inpatient and outpatient coders, CDI specialists, and professional coding staff across the country have been testing their ICD-10 coding knowledge with **ICD-10 coding scenarios** since June 2013.

Now, we want to give you the **top three most viewed** coding challenges of all time.

Drum roll, please.



The scenario

Which seventh character qualifier should be selected when assigning the ICD-10-PCS code for an amputation of the fifth toe at mid-shaft of the metatarsal?



The answer

F, Partial 5th Ray

To determine the seventh character qualifier for an amputation, you first need to know that amputations are assigned to root operation detachment. According to the *ICD-10-PCS Reference Manual*, this root operation represents a narrow range of procedures, and it is used exclusively for amputation procedures.

Detachment procedure codes are found only in body systems X, Anatomical Regions, Upper Extremities, and Y, Anatomical Regions and Lower Extremities, because amputations are performed on the extremities that cross overlapping body layers. Consequently, amputations cannot be coded to a specific musculoskeletal body system such as the bones or joints.

To read more about this coding scenario, [visit](#) the 3M Health Information Systems blog.





The scenario

A thin, white, 45-year-old woman was brought to the emergency department after being found unconscious outside of her home. There was anecdotal evidence that the woman might have been outside as long as one hour while the temperature was six degrees. She was wearing a light jacket but no hat or gloves.

Blood work revealed a blood alcohol level of 100 mg/100 ml. The patient was transferred to inpatient care with a diagnosis of hypothermia, frostbite of bilateral fingers and acute alcohol intoxication.

The answer

T68xxxA	Hypothermia
T33.531A	Superficial frostbite of right finger(s)
T33.532A	Superficial frostbite of left finger(s)
F10.129	Alcohol abuse with intoxication, unspecified
Y90.5	Blood alcohol level of 100-119 mg/100 ml
X31.xxxA	Exposure to excessive natural cold

ICD-10 doesn't differ from ICD-9 in the classification of hypothermia. It is still classified to the chapter on injury and poisoning, and hypothermia due to low environmental temperature still excludes hypothermia following anesthesia, hypothermia not due to low environmental temperature, and hypothermia of the newborn.

To read more about this coding scenario, [visit](#) the 3M Health Information Systems blog.



The question



A man from a small village in Guinea, West Africa, presented to his village health clinic with a severe headache, vomiting, diarrhea and severe pains in his back.

He was initially thought to have malaria, but upon transfer to a special unit at a hospital in Conakry, he was diagnosed with Ebola. The man went on to develop disseminated intravascular coagulopathy, SIRS and shock. He was treated with intravenous fluid and electrolytes, vitamin K, oxygen and blood pressure support, but he eventually succumbed.

The answer

A98.4 Ebola virus disease

R65.21 Severe sepsis with septic shock

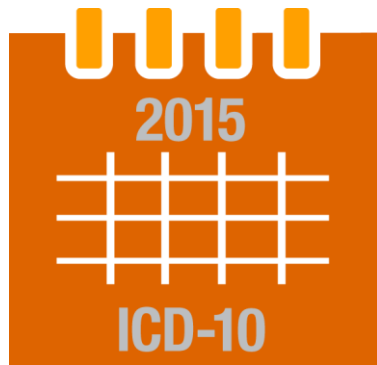
D65 Disseminated intravascular coagulopathy

There are two different codes that can be assigned to Ebola virus disease in ICD-9, depending on the way Ebola is located in the ICD-9 Alphabetic Index. After AHIMA requested clarification, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) confirmed the correct ICD-9-CM code is 078.89.

Lack of specificity in ICD-9 makes it difficult to clearly identify Ebola patients, which in turn makes it difficult to monitor and track the disease from a public health perspective. The ability to perform research, measure outcomes and evaluate treatment efficacy are all impacted. The difference between the two code sets illustrates that ICD-10 is more specific and more effective than ICD-9 in capturing public health diseases.

To read more about this coding scenario, [visit](#) the 3M Health Information Systems blog.





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The International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems – Tenth Revision (ICD-10) is copyrighted by the World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland 1992–2008.

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Published 02/15
70-2011-6546-4