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The Switch Has Been Flipped: Now What?
Useful resources for tracking down information on ICD-10

Its official - the change has occurred. October 1st has come and gone. However, the jury is still out on how the change to ICD-10 will impact physician practices. For the last several years vendors of practice management systems (PMS) and electronic health records (EHR) have been telling clients that their products are updated and ready for the transition. However, it may take some time to determine if this is the case.   When medical billers submit their claims to commercial (insurance) payers on or after October 1, 2015, it may take several days to know whether the transition was a success. Depending on which clearinghouse a practice uses, it may take up to 48 hours to determine if the claim was rejected because of incorrect diagnosis coding.

For many neurologists, the occurrence of the landmark change represented by ICD-10 may bring more questions than answers, and even if a claim is accepted there may still be uncertainty. A few questions that may come up include: did my practice management system/coder/EHR select the *best* ICD-10 code?   Was there a more appropriate code? Does my method of documentation fully support the code that was used?

The AAN and TMA have taken the leg work out of finding the answers for many of these questions. The AAN has developed a [Crosswalk for Commonly Used Neurologic Diagnosis](#) that facilitates the identification of the proper codes for diagnoses including sleep apnea, Alzheimer's disease, essential tremor, multiple sclerosis, migraine, peripheral neuropathy, muscular dystrophy, benign paroxysmal, positional vertigo, syncope and headache. AAN has also developed an [Epilepsy Crosswalk](#). These crosswalks have very specific information on how to convert from ICD-9 to ICD-10 codes.

For more in-depth information on coding for specific neurological conditions, the AAN has created [The Continuum Coding Collection](#). This link contains an array of articles published over the last several years that address coding (CPT, ICD-9 and ICD-10). The collection allows free access to over 20 articles that discuss coding in relation to a variety of neurological disorders.

The Texas Medical Association (TMA) has also gained free access to the [eMds ICD-10 Search Tool](#) for TMA members. This online tool allows members to use a combination of keyword filters, anatomical locations, gender, and age to identify ICD-10 codes that might be applicable in their practice. The [TMA's ICD-10 webpage](#) also contains a link to a three hour course offered by the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC), entitled ["ICD-10 Documentation Training for Physicians"](#). According to the TMA website, the code "DOCTMA" will get TMA members a $100 discount on the course. The course is approved for three (3) AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s).

The majority of the resources mentioned here are available to AAN and TMA members at *no cost*. Input on additional resources that might be helpful for TNS members can be sent to Ky Camero, TNS Executive Director at Ky.Camero@texmed.com.

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