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# Development of the ICD-10 Procedure Coding System (ICD-10-PCS)

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*The International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision Procedure Classification System (ICD-10-PCS) has been developed as a replacement for Volume 3 of the International Classification of Diseases 9th Revision (ICD-9-CM). The development of ICD-10-PCS was funded by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). ICD-10-PCS has a multi-axial seven character alphanumeric code structure that provides a unique code for all substantially different procedures, and allows new procedures to be easily incorporated as new codes. ICD-10-PCS was under development for over five years. The initial draft was formally tested and evaluated by an independent contractor; the final version was released in the Spring of 1998, with annual updates since the final release. The design, development and testing of ICD-10-PCS are discussed.*

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The ICD-10-PCS is being developed with the support of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, under contract Nos. 90-1138, 91-22300 500-95-0005 and HHSM-500-2004-00011C to 3M Health Information Systems. Consultation in the development of ICD-10-PCS was provided by Donn G. Duncan, M.D. and Gerard M. Doherty, M.D. The coding staff of the Division of Acute Care, Hospital and Ambulatory Policy Group, Center for Medicare Management of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, DHHS, provided ongoing review and evaluation during the development of the ICD-10-PCS: Patricia E. Brooks, Ann Bowling Fagan, Amy L. Gruber. A wide range of physician specialty societies, individual clinicians, health care professionals and researchers provided valuable input into the research. The Tables, List of Codes, and Index are computer generated, based on an expert system designed by Yvette Wang, Laurence Gregg, Enes Elia, and David Gannon. Address correspondence and requests for reprints to Richard F. Averill, Director, Clinical Research Department, 3M Health Information Systems, 100 Barnes Road, Wallingford, CT 06492. Robert L. Mullin, M.D., Barbara A. Steinbeck, RHIT, Norbert I. Goldfield, M.D., Thelma M. Grant, RHIA, Rhonda R. Butler, CCS, CCS-P, are with 3M Health Information Systems, 3M Health Care. The opinions expressed are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or policy positions of 3M Health Information Systems or the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

## Introduction

Volume 3 of the *International Classification of Diseases 9th Revision Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM)* has been used in the U.S. for the reporting of inpatient procedures since 1979. The structure of Volume 3 of ICD-9-CM has not allowed new procedures associated with rapidly changing technology to be effectively incorporated as new codes. As a result, in 1992 the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) funded a project to design a replacement for Volume 3 of ICD-9-CM. After a review of the preliminary design, CMS in 1995 awarded 3M Health Information Systems a three-year contract to complete development of the replacement system. The new system is the ICD-10 Procedure Coding System (ICD-10-PCS).

The development of ICD-10-PCS had as its goal the incorporation of four major attributes:

### *Completeness*

There should be a unique code for all substantially different procedures. In Volume 3 of ICD-9-CM, procedures on different body parts, with different approaches, or of different types are sometimes assigned to the same code.

### *Expandability*

As new procedures are developed, the structure of ICD-10-PCS should allow them to be easily incorporated as unique codes.

































































