



code it! - ACCD Newsletter Vol 2, No 2, March 2015

Welcome to the sixth edition of our **code it!** Newsletter.

What's New

- **ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Ninth Edition books are now available**

[See ordering details below.](#)

- **What's New in CLIP - Coding Rules**

[New Coding Rules](#)

22 new Coding Rules have been published in CLIP as at 15 March 2015. [Click here to view them.](#)

[Clinical Update](#)

A Clinical Update on Cystic Fibrosis has been published in CLIP and is also included on the [Quarterly Coding Exercises page](#). Due to preparation for Ninth Edition education, there are no Quarterly Coding Exercises in this edition of **code it!**.

ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Update

Since our last update in December 2014, ACCD delivered the print-ready files for ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Ninth Edition hardcopy books to IHPA. The books have been printed and are now available for purchase. [See ordering details below.](#)

A Summary of Ninth Edition Updates can be found on the [ACCD website](#).

Development of **Ninth Edition education** is nearing completion. Please refer to the [Education Update](#) below for further details.

The **Chronicle** (a document of changes between all editions of ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS) will be released on 1 July 2015 in conjunction with the implementation of Ninth Edition. The Chronicle is currently a downloadable linked PDF, however a web-based product is being considered for the future.

A major update for Ninth Edition is the introduction of **supplementary codes for chronic conditions**. An overview of the new ACS 0003 [Supplementary codes for chronic conditions](#) has been included below.

Overview of Supplementary Codes for Chronic Conditions

Since its implementation in the First Edition of the Australian Coding Standards (ACS) in July 1998, ACS 0002 *Additional diagnoses* has been under continued scrutiny. Over the years it has undergone numerous modifications, with later iterations largely restricting the assignment of additional diagnoses codes to only when a condition affects patient management in the particular episode of care. The challenge has been, and remains to be, how to determine which conditions should be considered as "affecting patient management".

It has also been noted that the criteria in ACS 0002 appears to have led to an overly rigorous application. This has resulted in the coding of what may be considered minor complaints and symptoms and at the same time, under coding of chronic conditions that don't obviously meet the criteria for assignment outlined in ACS 0002. Even though these chronic conditions by their nature are important for patient management in terms of "treatment required, investigations needed and resources used" and are vital in collecting data to satisfy the other use cases of the classification, they are not always coded.

The use cases of the clinical classification are many. The *Guidance in the use of ICD-10-AM (ICD-10-AM, Tabular List)* highlights these use cases beyond its original purpose to provide access to information contained in medical records for research, education and administration, and includes:

- quality assurance activities
- epidemiological studies
- health care planning and evaluation
- payment of health services

Significantly, the codes are used to assign episodes of care into Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs), which are designed to categorise episodes of patient care into clinically coherent groups with similar resource utilisation for

the purposes of casemix based funding and analysis.

Ongoing review and development of the clinical classification, including the conventions and standards, is essential to ensure that the classification is able to meet the diverse requirements of its many applications. The interpretation and application of ACS 0002, in conjunction with ACS 0001 *Principal diagnosis*, is fundamental in achieving consistent, complete and meaningful coded clinical data.

To address these issues an evidence-based, phased review of ACS 0002 *Additional diagnoses* is being commenced in Ninth Edition with the long term goal of ensuring that "clinically important" conditions are included in the coded data, so that the data collection is appropriate for both current and future use cases, including the management of chronic conditions.

This goal is difficult from several perspectives:

- it is not always clear in the documentation that a condition should be coded as an additional diagnosis, particularly in relation to many underlying chronic conditions.
- defining the conditions that are clinically important is a challenging task.
- an inappropriate outcome would be assigning codes for every condition documented in a clinical record, resulting in meaningless data.

The review is being conducted by:

1. The creation of 29 codes in the range U78-U88 *Supplementary codes for chronic conditions* representing a selection of clinically important conditions which will reside in Chapter 22 *Codes for special purposes*. These codes should always be assigned where it is documented that a condition is present during an episode of admitted patient care, but it has not met the criteria for coding (as instructed in ACS 0002 *Additional diagnoses* and other general and specialty coding standards, conventions and rules). The list of "clinically important" conditions has been minimised so as to be comprehensive enough to capture meaningful data for analysis without causing undue clinical coder burden.

These "U" codes are excluded from the AR-DRG grouping process and will not impact DRGs or Activity Based Funding.

2. Creation of ACS 0003 *Supplementary codes for chronic conditions* to provide classification advice for the assignment of the supplementary codes for chronic conditions.
3. Revision of ACS 0002 *Additional diagnoses* to include reference to ACS 0003.

In order for sufficient data to be collected, these "U" codes will be assigned for an initial period of two development cycles (i.e. four years). The resulting data collection will be analysed, both to determine the frequency of additional coding and to measure the impact on resource consumption (if any). This comprises the initial phase of the review.

The results will be used to inform the second phase of the review to determine what changes may be required to ACS 0002 *Additional diagnoses*.

Impact on Clinical Coding

Minimising the impact on clinical coders was considered in the development of the supplementary codes for chronic conditions. Clinical coders already consider all patient conditions for qualification of ACS 0002 criteria and other general and specialty coding standards, conventions and rules. With the introduction of ACS 0003, nominated conditions which do not otherwise qualify for assignment will instead be assigned a "U" code without the need for further processing.

The impact on clinical coders will be minimised due to:

- the supplementary codes for chronic conditions being less granular than the other chapter codes.
- clinical coder familiarity with the supplementary codes with a PDF quick reference guide being provided (see links below).

[Click here](#) for a downloadable PDF of ACS 0003 *Supplementary codes for chronic conditions*.

[Click here](#) for a downloadable PDF of ICD-10-AM code range U78-U88 *Supplementary Codes for Chronic Conditions*.

AR-DRG Update

AR-DRG Version 8.0 has been fully approved by the Pricing Authority, following feedback from jurisdictions and a favourable independent assessment by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). Version 8.0 takes a fresh approach to clinical complexity and the resultant ADRG splits, with only six ADRGs split using variables other than clinical complexity. As well, the Episode Clinical Complexity Score is computed using a simple, easy to understand formula, which includes a dampening factor as the number of additional diagnoses increases. Version 8.0 also sees the

completion of 17 public submissions, with 16 carried over to the ongoing work program. Both the *Report on the Review of the AR-DRG Classification Case Complexity Process* and the *AR-DRG Version 8.0 Final Report* can be found [here](#).

ACCD's attention is now turning to the work program for Version 9.0, due for completion in October 2016. Besides the range of public submissions, ACCD will be seeking advice and input from its Classifications Clinical Advisory Group and DRG Technical Group. There will be attention given to Adjacent DRGs that include administrative variables in their definition and to those where clinical advice suggests that the current structure does not well reflect current best clinical practice. As well, there will be a review of all Pre MDCs, with the objective of relocating episodes currently classified to these ADRGs to mainstream ADRGs.

The aim is for Version 9.0 to be more in line with the classification principles adopted for Version 8.0, to be aligned with current clinical practice and to be as easy to understand as possible.

Further information can be found on the [AR-DRG V8.0 page](#).

Education Update

From 1 July 2015, ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Ninth Edition will be implemented nationally. In order to familiarise clinical coders and other users with the updates to the classification, an education program will be offered from April to June 2015.

Major areas of change include:

- Sepsis
- Pressure injury
- Rehabilitation
- Supplementary codes for chronic conditions
- Cystic fibrosis
- Allergen challenge
- Dengue

Education Program

Education material for ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Ninth Edition will be delivered online and will be free of charge. **Face-to-face workshops will not be provided.** When the online education material is released, ACCD will email all CLIP registrants advising the correct website address to use.

The following documents will be provided:

- Changes Reference Book - a downloadable PDF document detailing all updates made from Eighth to Ninth Edition.
- Tutorial videos - accessible online, focusing on a selection of major updates (with accompanying presentation slides as downloadable PDF documents).
- Coding Exercise Workbook - contains exercises related to major updates as a downloadable PDF document.

Education Videos

The pre-Edition training material for ICD-10-AM Ninth Edition will be released as a series of videos accessible through the ACCD website.

These videos are MP4 files which is the most widely used file format for creating and playing videos.

Most browsers will play MP4 videos although some may require the addition of a Silverlight plug-in. It is also important to note that some older browsers may not be able play these file types.

Please refer to the detailed IT specifications from the Downloadable PDF file on the [Ninth Edition Education page](#).

Participation Certificate

To receive a participation certificate, users will need to follow the link to log in to [CLIP](#) and complete a short challenge quiz.

Within five days of completing the quiz, ACCD will send a participation certificate to the email address of the CLIP registration. To ensure a smooth delivery process, users will need to ensure that CLIP registration details and passwords are correct in advance of completing the quiz, and that the email address is accurate. Please also let colleagues know that CLIP registration will be necessary to receive a participation certificate.

Following completion of the online education, it would be appreciated if users complete the participant evaluation survey. Feedback is essential in helping refine and improve the online educational experience in the future.

There will also be an opportunity to submit questions about the Ninth Edition updates. While individual responses

will not be provided, these questions will inform the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to be published after the implementation of Ninth Edition.

We are also planning to present a post Ninth Edition implementation education session (informed by the FAQs) at the upcoming HIMAA-NCCH Conference (see further details below).

Upcoming Events

Activity-Based Funding Conference 2015

Exhibition Centre Adelaide

27-29 May 2015

The [Independent Hospital Pricing Authority \(IHPA\)](#) is hosting the Activity-Based Funding Conference 2015 from Wednesday 27 to Friday 29 May 2015 at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

The conference theme *Driving transparency and efficiency in Australian hospitals* will focus the program on the broader aspects of Activity Based Funding (ABF) to promote discussion around what else ABF can achieve.

Abstract presenters are encouraged to provide case studies that demonstrate how they are using ABF for more than just funding and attendees will be challenged to think about the wider implications of ABF data use in Australian hospitals.

[Submit an abstract \(Deadline 20 March 2015\)](#)

[Register](#)

HIMAA-NCCH Conference 2015 - Diversify, Innovate and Transform

Sydney Masonic Conference and Function Centre

27-29 October 2015

An added bonus this year is that delegates will be joined by members of the Council of the International Federation of HIM Associations, so the proceedings will offer a truly international flavour. NCCH will also be presenting post Ninth Edition implementation education sessions at the conference.

Program Themes

- eHealth - eHealth and EMR challenges and opportunities
- Funding - the latest news on activity based funding and other casemix and costing work
- Performance reporting and analytics - to improve performance, transparency and accountability
- Management - addressing human resource issues and change management
- Medico-legal issues - privacy principles and policies, documentation
- Research - building on last year's stand-out workshop and keynote presentations
- International perspectives - including speakers from IFHIMA
- Workforce - training, professional pathways - and positioning the profession
- Important dates

Key Dates

- Call for abstracts - 12 December 2014
- Abstracts submission - 30 March 2015
- Abstract acceptance - 29 May 2015
- Conference dates - 27-29 October 2015

For further information, please visit the [Conference website](#).

HIC Conference 2015: Driving reform: Digital health is everyone's business

Brisbane

3-5 August 2015

Key Dates

- Submissions close - 16 March 2015
- Notifications - 5 May 2015

For further information, please visit the [Conference website](#).

2015 AHIMA Convention and Exhibit

New Orleans

26-30 September 2015

For further information, please visit the [AHIMA website](#).

Ordering ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS and AR-DRG Related Products

The Ninth Edition ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS hardcopy books are now available for purchase.

Products can be purchased online from the [IHPA Sales website](#).

Please also refer to the [IHPA AR-DRG Classification System Product Sales Frequently Asked Questions Sales website](#).

CONSORTIUM PARTNERS



NCCH	t: +61 2 9351 9772
PO Box 170	f: +61 2 9351 9603
Lidcombe NSW 1825	e: enquiries@accd.net.au
Australia	w: accd.net.au
