

# ICD-10 Updates for 2022

The official ICD-10 updates for Fiscal Year 2022 go into effect October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. There were 211 code changes (159 new, 25 deleted, and 27 revised) and there were updates and clarifications to some guidelines. To see the complete list of changes, go to <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/icd-10/2022-icd-10-cm>.

As stated above, the 2022 ICD-10-CM diagnosis code changes for next year go into effect on October 1, 2021. Most changes are limited for Chiropractic offices and the number of changes is comparable to last year. After the 2022 updates, we are up to 72,775 codes! The key changes this year are as follows:

## New Code:

### **G44.86** *Cervicogenic headache*

This code includes the instruction: "Code also associated cervical spinal condition, if known"

## Deleted Code:

### **M54.5** *Low back pain*

## New Codes:

### **M54.50** *Low back pain, unspecified*

Loin pain

Lumbago NOS

### **M54.51** *Vertebrogenic low back pain*

Low back vertebral endplate pain

### **M54.59** *Other low back pain*

At first glance, vertebrogenic low back pain may appear to be a good option for chiropractic, however, this condition will likely need to include diagnostic evidence of endplate damage, as visualized on MRI. In other words, M54.50 is probably the best option to replace what was previously reported with the now deleted code M54.5 however be cautious, M54.50 is an unspecified code. Additionally, "pain" is considered more of a symptom and not a definitive diagnosis so if you can diagnose what's causing the pain then there is no need to code the pain itself.

Getting ahead and being prepared for these changes is key to not being caught with denials. My suggestion is to perform an analysis and prepare for the 2022 ICD-10-CM changes.

Every Practice should perform the following:

1. Download the Tabular Addenda for 2021 from CMS located at:  
<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/icd-10/2021-icd-10-cm>

This website will open a page direct from Medicare that will allow a user to download the changes. Providers can select the zip file named "2021 Addendum ZIP". After opening the zip file, select the PDF document labeled "icd10cm\_tabular\_addenda\_2022". This file contains all the changes for every chapter.

2. Determine which codes affect your practice and review the clinical concepts behind any new codes.
3. Update your software/EHR and make sure that the new codes will be available by the deadline. Some vendors will add them automatically while others may require providers to enter the codes into the system manually.
4. Remember, on and after October 1, providers should select the codes based on the date of service, not based on the date the claim is sent. Claims for dates of service prior to October 1, 2021 will use the 2021 version regardless of when the claim is sent.

The updates coming October 1st should not have a big impact on your office, so long as you take some simple steps to prepare.

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