

Rhode Island Early Intervention

Procedural Changes and Clarifications

ICD-10 Codes and Updating ICD-10 codes in Welligent

The International Classification of Diseases 10th Edition (ICD-10) is a set of diagnostic codes required under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) for billing Early Intervention to insurers. Without an ICD-10 code, Medicaid and insurance companies will deny claims.

The IFSP team is responsible for selecting the appropriate ICD-10 diagnostic code for the condition or reason for providing Early Intervention services. Information gathered about the child through referral information, medical records, multidisciplinary evaluation/assessment and parent concerns informs the team in selecting the most accurate ICD-10 code. The ICD-10 code supports the intervention services listed on the IFSP.

ICD-10 code changes

It is important that the ICD-10 code is accurate throughout the child's enrollment in Early Intervention. The ICD-10 code should always reflect the child's current need and current services. ICD-10 code changes are needed in the following circumstances:

- When the child is diagnosed with a new medical condition listed on the Single Established Condition List
- When a child's current ICD-10 code is a newborn code and becomes invalid because of the child's age* (see box on next page)
- When the child's condition has changed, and the current ICD-10 code is no longer accurate

In each of these situations the IFSP team should conduct a review of medical records, Services Rendered Forms, new evaluations, ongoing assessment, and parent concerns. The team should then select a new ICD-10 code that best represents the reason for providing early intervention services. This should be documented on an SRF and in Welligent.

Updating the ICD-10 code in Welligent

Once the team selects the code, the process in Welligent is as follows:

- On the RI Early Intervention screen add a new Evaluation to the record.
- Enter the date of the ICD-10 change.
- Click on Evaluation Type and select "ICD-10 change".
- Under eligibility select the reason for eligibility:
 - For children whose original eligibility was not SEC and a new condition has been diagnosed that is listed on the Single Established Condition List, select SEC as the eligibility because the child's eligibility has changed (i.e. Hearing Loss, Autism)
 - For children whose original eligibility was SEC and they have aged out of the original ICD-10 code (Low Birth Weight or Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome), select SEC as the eligibility because the child's eligibility has not changed.
 - For children whose original eligibility was DD and a new ICD-10 code is more accurate which is not an SEC select DD as the eligibility.
- Under Primary ICD-10 code select a new ICD-10 code from the drop down as the primary ICD-10 code.
- Under Secondary ICD-10 code:

- For children who have aged out of the original ICD-10 code list the original ICD-10 code as a secondary ICD-10 code
- For children who have an additional condition, select the ICD-10 code that best describes the reason for early intervention services as Primary and the second condition as Secondary

* In some instances, a child with a newborn ICD-10 code which is becoming invalid due to the child's age may not be exhibiting an area of difficulty, and therefore none of the ICD-10 codes found on the Significant Development Delay List may be applicable. If so, the following ICD-10 code is suggested: **Code Z87.898 Personal history of other specified conditions.** This code originates from:

- ⇒ Category Z00-Z99 - *Factors influencing health status and contact with health services.*
- ⇒ Subcategory Z77-Z99 - *Persons with potential health hazards related to family and personal history and certain conditions influencing health status.*
- ⇒ Z87 - *Personal history of other diseases and conditions.*

Descriptions of this code are available which may describe the reason for EI services when no delay is apparent such as "H/o: perinatal problem" and "History of low birth weight." If this code is chosen, the IFSP team should monitor SRFs to review its accuracy and select one of codes from the Development Delay list when applicable.

ICD-10 Resources

One resource for EI providers in determining proper ICD-10 codes is www.icd10data.com. Providers can search for ICD-10 codes and see descriptions of ICD-10 codes. Professional organizations such as the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), and American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) often have resources available to their members on this topic. If a provider feels there is an appropriate code that is currently not on the drop-down please let us know and we will see if we can add it.

Talking to parents about ICD-10 codes and code changes

Although there is no requirement to discuss ICD-10 codes and code changes with parents, it makes sense to explain them to parents initially and to let parents know about changes. Otherwise, if a parent became aware of the code, or a code change, they might be unnecessarily worried or concerned. Talking Points for parents may include:

1. ICD-10-codes are required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) for insurance billing purposes.
2. ICD-10 stands for the 10th edition of the International Classification of Diseases published by the World Health Organization.
3. ICD-10 codes are alphanumeric codes used by doctors, health insurance companies, and public health agencies across the world to represent diagnoses. Every disease, disorder, injury, infection, and symptom has its own ICD-10 code. ICD-10 codes are used for everything from processing health insurance claims to tracking disease epidemics and compiling worldwide mortality statistics. <https://www.verywellhealth.com/icd-10-codes-and-how-do-they-work-1738471>
4. The ICD-10 code represents the reason(s) for early intervention services.
5. The ICD-10 code may change throughout the child's enrollment in EI as new information is learned about the child and/or the child's condition changes.