



Dental coding in oral medicine and radiology

Divakaran Haritha¹, Vijayakumar Priyadharshini¹, Moorthy Abirami¹, Thalamalai Saravanan²

¹ Department of Oral Medicine and Radiology, Karpaga Vinayaga Institute of Dental Sciences, Chinnakolambakam, Padalam (PO), Madhuranthagam (TK) Chengalpattu (DT), Tamilnadu, India

² Professor, Department of Oral Medicine and Radiology, Karpaga Vinayaga Institute of Dental Sciences, Chinnakolambakam, Padalam (PO), Madhuranthagam (TK) Chengalpattu (DT), Tamilnadu, India

Abstract

Dental care is a complex process that requires a large amount of data to be stored and planning and evaluated. Dental care has developed sophisticated systems for recording treatment in numeric codes to facilitate machine-readable billings to third-party carriers for the reimbursement of patients and providers for the costs of care. The invariant Language is applied to medical education and exploration to give a useful base for original, indigenous, and public use comparisons. In this paper, we review the current state of the art of medical coding classification systems based on ICD-10-CM, CPT, and HCPCS Level II classification systems.

Keywords: Dental coding, oral medicine, radiology

Introduction

International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD.9.CM), current procedural terminology (CPT), and common dental terminology (CDT) describes about the coding system. Codes are merely a series of numbers or letters and numbers (alpha-numeric) that are used to identify a condition, disease process, etiology, procedure, or treatment modality. The use of one code can save the use of dozens of words. Codes are more concise than long descriptions; It provides more uniform means of communication; and bridge the gap between different languages, geographic connotations, and differences in profession, specialty, or subspecialty.

A system of diagnostic codes would allow dentist to transform the written diagnoses to machine readable data which could be stored and analyzed along with the subsequent treatment to provide better information for program planning and evaluation^[1].

Dentistry has developed sophisticated systems for recording treatment in numeric codes to facilitate machinereadable billings to third parties. These systems allow for the ready transfer of billing information to third party carriers for the reimbursement of patients and providers for the costs of care. In addition, they have been used as a method to collect data on previous care, and large files have been analyzed to study both the pattern of care provided to insured groups and the profiles of care provided either by providers or to individuals or groups of providers.

History of Coding

The history of rendering for medical or dental purposes can actually be traced back to London, England, in the seventeenth century. At that time, John Graunt developed a system of categorization of conditions, distemperatures, and conditions that tried to identify the causes of death statistically and demographically for children youngish than the age of 6 years. In 1893, grounded on Graunt's work, Dr. Jacques Bertillion developed the Bertillion Bracket of the

Causes of Death. His system was latterly revised, along with a name change to the International Bracket of the Causes of Death, and has historically been considered the first edition of the International Bracket of conditions (ICD). This document was meliorated for further times until the World Health Organization (WHO) conducted a major modification in 1948 (the sixth edition). This major modification included a section on mortality and morbidity and was renamed the Bracket of conditions, Injuries and Death. In 1958, the seventh edition was published by the WHO, and a decade latterly, the eighth edition was published. The ninth modification by the WHO has redounded in the ICD-9-CM. It consists of a irregular list containing a numbered canon of the complaint law figures; an alphabetic indicator to the complaint entries; and a bracket system for surgical, individual, and remedial procedures. The American Medical Association (AMA) developed and published. Current Procedural language in 1966 to define surgical procedures more easily, with limited sections on drug, radiology, and laboratory procedures. The alternate edition, which was published in 1970, included expanded terms and canons to designate individual and remedial procedures in surgery, drug, and the specialties. At that time, five- number coding was introduced, replacing the former four- number bracket. In the middle to late 1970s, the third and fourth editions of the CPT law were introduced. CPT descriptive terms and relating canons presently serve to report medical procedures and services under public and private health insurance programs and for executive operation purposes, similar as claims Processing and developing guidelines for medical care review. The invariant Language also is applied to medical education and exploration to give a useful base for original, indigenous, and public use comparisons. Before 1986, the American Dental Association (ADA) honored the need to report dental procedures and services directly to third- party carriers. To achieve uniformity, thickness, and particularity, the ADA developed The Code on Dental Procedures and title (Dental

Code). The Current Dental Terminology, first edition (CDT-1), which was released in 1991. The design to develop the CDT- 1 began with a entitlement from the American Fund For Dental Health and took times to develop. It was a common adventure of general Dentists and specialists. The CDT- 2 was released in 1994 and included numerous variations and additions. originally, the dental coding system was a five- number numeric system. The CDT- 3 interpretation was amended to an nascence- numeric system, With the first character of each law being the letter ‘‘D’’ to denote ‘‘dental system.’’ This change was initiated grounded on the conditions of the Health Insurance Portability and Responsibility Act (HIPAA) of 1996. Developing and maintaining the CDT is the responsibility of the Council on Dental Benefit Programs. Representatives seated on the council include members from the ADA-honored dental specialties, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), and numerous nationally honored payer associations. Although the original plan for CDT modification was to be every 5 times, further Frequent variations were set up to be necessary. The most recent interpretation, the CDT 2007 to 2008, is now available in paper and electronic formats ^[1].

Classification of Coding ^[2]

There are currently five major medical coding classification systems that are used to identify and manage medical codes — ICD-11, ICD-10-CM, ICD-10-PCS, CPT and HCPCS Level II.

ICD-11

ICD- 11 is the rearmost modification of the International Bracket of conditions (ICD) and is intended to replace ICD-10 as the new global standard for individual canons. ICD-11 went into use in January 2022 and is used to strictly classify everything from diseases to various symptoms. It also recodifies the bracket area of some diseases, expands the delineations for sexual health and includes new entries for vulnerable system and sleep- wake diseases, among other new diagnosis.

ICD-10-CM

The ICD-10-CM is the clinical revision (CM) of the former interpretation of the ICD, ICD- 10. This interpretation of the ICD is designed to be used in a clinical setting and contains a modifier to achieve position of detail that meets reporting requirements within the United States. ICD-10-CM also differs from the standard ICD- 10 codes in granularity. The medical canons in ICD-10-CM are more detailed and are especially useful for clinical, inpatient operations because they allow for explanation about the inflexibility of a complaint or condition.

ICD-10-PCS

The ICD-10-PCS is the procedural-focused interpretation of the ICD, ICD- 10. Unlike the ICD-10-CM, which is meant for more detailed bracket of conditions and conditions, the ICD-10-PCS contains more detailed medical canons for procedures and outfit and is used for inpatient settings.

CPT

CPT stands for Current Procedural language and is used to report individual, surgical and medical procedures to applicable parties. CPT is a procedural medical rendering bracket system, meaning that it identifies the procedures that Doctors and other care providers perform to help their cases. Its primary purpose is to communicate these procedures in a standardized way for executive and logical uses.

HCPCS Level II

The Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System Level II, or HCPCS, is grounded on CPT. HCPCS codes are used to delineatenon-physician services that aren't included in the CPT governance, similar as ambulances, medicines and prosthetics.

Dental Coding ^[1]

Common dental terminology category of service and code series

Diagnostic	D0100-D0999
preventive	D1000-D1999
Restorative	D2000-D2999
Endodontics	D3000-D3999
Periodontics	D4000-D4999
Prosthodontics,Removable	D5000-D5899
Maxillofacial Prosthesis	D6200-D6900
Implant Services	D7000-D7999
Prosthodontics,Fixed	D8000-D8990
Oral surgery	D9000-D9999
Orthodontics	D5900-D5999
Adjunctive General Series	D6000-D6199

Uses of Dental Coding ^[5]

CDT codes are used to regularize dental billing across the country. This makes it easier for insurance companies to reuse claims and for dentists to get paid for their services. Understanding these canons can help with dental billing. In addition, it can be used to track trends in dental care and assess the effectiveness of dental treatments.

How to Use Cdt Codes ^[5]

Dentists should first consult the Code on Dental Procedures and title (CDT) when rendering a procedure. This codebook includes a list of all CDT canons and their corresponding descriptions. Dentists should also choose the law that stylish describes the procedure they performed. For illustration, if

dentists perform routine cleaning, they use CDT code 11010 (Prophylaxis – grown-up). It's important to note that some procedures may bear further than one law. In these cases, the canons should be listed in order of priority. For illustration, if a dentist performs a stuffing and an x-ray on the same tooth, they would use CDT law 21121 (Pulp cap – primary or endless tooth) followed by CDT law 02140

(Bitewing single film). Dental rendering can feel daunting, but it's essential to get it right! By following the guidelines set forth by the ADA, dentists can insure that they're rightly rendering procedures and getting paid for their services.

CDT Codes and Description in Oral Medicine and Radiology ^[6]

Code	Description
D0120	periodic oral evaluation - established patient
D0140	limited oral evaluation - problem focused
D0145	oral evaluation for a patient under three years of age and counseling with primary caregiver
D0150	comprehensive oral evaluation - new or established patient
D0160	detailed and extensive oral evaluation - problem focused, by report
D0170	re-evaluation - limited, problem focused (established patient; not post-operative visit)
D0171	re-evaluation – post-operative office visit
D0180	comprehensive periodontal evaluation - new or established patient
D0190	screening of a patient
D0191	assessment of a patient
D0210	intraoral - complete series of radiographic images
D0220	intraoral - periapical first radiographic image
D0230	intraoral - periapical each additional radiographic image
D0240	intraoral - occlusal radiographic image
D0250	extra-oral – 2D projection radiographic image created using a stationary radiation source, and detector
D0251	extra-oral posterior dental radiographic image
D0270	bitewing - single radiographic image
D0272	bitewings - two radiographic images
D0273	bitewings - three radiographic images
D0274	bitewings - four radiographic images
D0277	vertical bitewings - 7 to 8 radiographic images
D0310	Sialography
D0320	temporomandibular joint arthrogram, including injection
D0321	other temporomandibular joint radiographic images, by report
D0322	tomographic survey
D0330	panoramic radiographic image
D0340	2D cephalometric radiographic image – acquisition, measurement and analysis
D0350	2D oral/facial photographic image obtained intra-orally or extra-orally
D0351	3D photographic image
D0364	cone beam CT capture and interpretation with limited field of view – less than one whole jaw
D0365	cone beam CT capture and interpretation with field of view of one full dental arch – mandible
D0366	cone beam CT capture and interpretation with field of view of one full dental arch – maxilla, with or without cranium
D0367	cone beam CT capture and interpretation with field of view of both jaws; with or without cranium
D0368	cone beam CT capture and interpretation for TMJ series including two or more exposures
D0369	maxillofacial MRI capture and interpretation
D0370	maxillofacial ultrasound capture and interpretation
D0371	sialoendoscopy capture and interpretation
D0380	cone beam CT image capture with limited field of view – less than one whole jaw
D0381	cone beam CT image capture with field of view of one full dental arch – mandible
D0382	cone beam CT image capture with field of view of one full dental arch – maxilla, with or without cranium
D0383	cone beam CT image capture with field of view of both jaws; with or without cranium
D0384	cone beam CT image capture for TMJ series including two or more exposures
D0385	maxillofacial MRI image capture
D0386	maxillofacial ultrasound image capture
D0391	interpretation of diagnostic image by a practitioner not associated with capture of the image, including report
D0393	treatment simulation using 3D image volume
D0394	digital subtraction of two or more images or image volumes of the same modality
D0395	fusion of two or more 3D image volumes of one or more modalities

References

1. Napier RH, Bruelheide LS, Demann ET, Haug RH. Insurance billing and coding. *Dental Clinics of North America*, 2008;52(3):507–527. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cden.2008.02.008>
2. DeVry University. Understanding medical codes and coding classification systems [Internet]. devry.edu, 2022.
3. Chantravekin Y, Tasananutree M, Santaphongse S, Aittiwaraopoj A. Qualities of dental chart recording and coding. In *MEDINFO*, 2013, 932-932. IOS Press.
4. Figueiredo RL, Singhal S, Dempster L, Hwang SW, Quinonez C. The accuracy of International Classification of Diseases coding for dental problems not associated with trauma in a hospital emergency department. *Journal of Public Health Dentistry*, 2015;75(4):343-7.

5. Scott. (2023b, July 26). What is Dental Coding? Zap Dental Billing. <https://zapidentalbilling.com/dental-coding/>
6. Greenwood Dental Smiles. Dental Glossary & ADA Codes - Greenwood Dental Smiles, 2023. <https://www.greenwooddentalsmiles.com/dental-glossary-ada-codes/>
7. American Dental Association. CDT 2020: dental procedure codes. American Dental Association, 2019.
8. Solheim T. A hierarchical system for the coding of dental information in reports and computer-assisted identifications. *The Journal of Forensic Odontostomatology*,1997;15(1):5-8.
9. American Dental Association. CDT 2024: Current Dental Terminology. American Dental Association, 2023.