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1. HHS Proposes New ICD Codes in 2011

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is [proposing](#) to update the ICD-9 code set now in use with an ICD-10 set, which would accommodate more diagnoses and new procedures, by Oct. 1, 2011. ICD-9 contains 17,000 codes and is expected to run out of codes next year, according to HHS. The ICD-10 set has more than 155,000 codes and allows for more detail on electronic health records and transactions between providers and payers. HHS is accepting public comments on the proposal until Oct. 21, 2008.

2. New AHRQ Tool Helps Hospitals Evaluate Disaster Drills

Hospital disaster response drills are real-time tests of a facility's readiness to respond to a sudden demand for services resulting from a community-wide disaster. Routine evaluation of these drills can help a hospital make sure it is ready to meet community needs and provide high-quality care during a disaster event. Beginning in September, hospitals participating in the Hospital Preparedness Program, administered through HHS, will be required to provide

executive summaries of the results of disaster drills they conduct. AHRQ's new Tool for Evaluating Core Elements of Hospital Disaster Drills can help hospitals meet this requirement. The Tool for Evaluating Core Elements of Hospital Disaster Drills is available on the AHRQ Web site at: <http://www.ahrq.gov/prep/drillelements>. Single, free copies can be ordered by sending an e-mail to ahrqpubs@ahrq.hhs.gov or by calling 1-800-358-9295. For more information about the Hospital Preparedness Program, visit <http://www.hhs.gov/aspr/oepo/hpp>.

3. CDC Provides New Blast Injury Fact Sheets

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in collaboration with partners from the [Terrorism Injuries Information, Dissemination and Exchange \(TIIDE\) Project](#), have developed fact sheets for health care providers that provide detailed information on the treatment of blast injuries. These fact sheets address background, clinical presentation, diagnostic evaluation, management and disposition of blast injury topics. The fact sheets may be viewed and downloaded for use in the treatment of blast injury patients, in the training of clinical staff or to disseminate to others. Topics include: Blast Injuries: Essential Facts; Injury Care: Prehospital; Lung Injury: Prehospital Care; Lung Injury; Radiological Diagnosis; Crush Injury and Crush Syndrome; Post Exposure Prophylaxis for Bloodborne Pathogens; Abdominal Injuries; Extremity Injuries; Ear Injuries; Eye Injuries; Thermal Injuries; Pediatrics; Older Adults; and Bombings and Mental Health. These fact sheets will soon be available in Spanish, Chinese, and French. Additional fact sheet topics will be posted as they are developed. For more information, go to <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/masscasualties/blastinjuryfacts.asp>.

4. NIOSH Issues Warning on Misleading Representation of the Mainstays Respirator

It has been brought to the attention of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) that Allway Tools Inc., is importing and selling a particulate respirator, Mainstays Projects (RSP2MS), as a NIOSH-approved respirator. These respirators are being sold at Wal-Mart Stores. The Mainstays Projects RSP2MS Particulate respirator is not certified and is not approved by NIOSH. The Mainstays Project (RSP2MS) respirator is individually packaged and the words Allway and the NIOSH N95 logo imprinted on the face of the respirator. A NIOSH approval is issued to a respirator only after it has been evaluated in the laboratory and found to comply with all the requirements of Title 42, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 84 (42 CFR 84), including a review of the manufacturer's quality plan. For more information, download the notice at http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npptl/usernotices/pdfs/Mainstay_082008.pdf.

5. CDC Issues Report of Public Perceptions to Community Mitigation Strategies

A new report by the Harvard School of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Public Response to Community Mitigation Measures for Pandemic Influenza" suggests that if community mitigation measures are instituted, most respondents would comply with recommendations but would be challenged to do so if their income or job were severely compromised. The results also indicate that community mitigation measures could cause problems for persons with lower incomes and for racial and ethnic minorities. Twenty-four percent of respondents said that they would not have anyone available to take care of them if they became sick with pandemic influenza. Given these results, planning and public engagement will be needed to encourage the public to be prepared. To read the entire report, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/eid/content/14/5/778.htm>.

6. Bacterial Pneumonia Caused Most Deaths in 1918 Influenza Pandemic

The majority of deaths during the influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 were not caused by the influenza virus acting alone, report researchers from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health. Instead, most victims succumbed to bacterial pneumonia following influenza virus infection. Because a future

influenza pandemic may unfold in a similar manner, authors of a new NIAID report conclude comprehensive pandemic preparations should include not only efforts to produce new or improved influenza vaccines and antiviral drugs but also provisions to stockpile antibiotics and bacterial vaccines as well. For more information, go to <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/aug2008/niaid-19.htm>.

7. Researchers Find Long Immunity to 1918 Pandemic Virus

A study of the blood of older people who survived the 1918 influenza pandemic reveals that antibodies to the strain have lasted a lifetime and can perhaps be engineered to protect future generations against similar strains. The findings appeared online Aug 17 in Nature. For more information go to the online publication of this article at <http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature07231.html>.

8. Pennsylvania Provides New EMS Recruitment Website

Pennsylvania has become one of the first states in the Nation to roll-out a recruitment oriented website specific to EMS. Funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of EMS, the informational website has been developed to provide information to the general public who may be interested in a career in Emergency Medical Services. Contents include: how to become involved in EMS, nature of work, job outlook, types of emergencies, where to obtain training, working environment, resources/links, and testimonials from current EMS Providers. This new recruitment website can be found at www.pa-ems.org.

9. SOPHE/CDC Fellowships Now Available

The Society of Public Health Education (SOPHE) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have announced several Graduate Student Fellowships for the upcoming year. A common application for all positions is available [here](#). All SOPHE/CDC Student Fellowship Applications Are Due: September 15, 2008. The following positions are available:

- SOPHE/CDC Student Fellowship in Injury Prevention

This one-year fellowship recognizes, assists, & trains graduate students working on research or practice-based unintentional injury prevention projects from the perspective of health education or behavioral sciences. Download fellowship [description](#).

- SOPHE/CDC Student Fellowship in Emergency Preparedness

This one-year fellowship recognizes, assists, & trains graduate students working on research or practice-based emergency preparedness from the perspective of health education or behavioral sciences. Download fellowship [description](#).

- SOPHE/ATSDR Student Fellowship in Environmental Health Promotion

This one-year fellowship recognizes, assists, & trains graduate students working on research or practice-based projects in environmental health education/health promotion or environmental justice from the perspective of health education. Download fellowship [description](#).

10. New Statistician Joins NEDARC

The National EMSC Data Analysis Resource Center (NEDARC) would like to announce the addition of a new member to their technical support team. Kent Page joins NEDARC as the newest statistician. He received his MStat from the University of Utah and will be working primarily with the State Partnership grantees. NEDARC is excited to have him on board. Kent is available at: Kent.Page@hsc.utah.edu.

11. New Project Assistant Joins the NRC

Anita Patel recently joined the National Resource Center as the new project assistant. Anita graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Science in Biobehavioral

Health and minors in neuroscience and French. Anita will be working to support the Research Team with special projects and the PECARN and Targeted Issue grantees. She can be reached at apatel@cnmc.org.

12. NASN Launches Back-to-School Anaphylaxis Awareness Campaign

The National Association of School Nurses (NASN) launched an anaphylaxis awareness campaign in response to recent survey findings that 75% of school nurses have students with known allergies, however, do not bring auto-injectable epinephrine to school. The campaign will encourage parents of children with known allergies to provide the child's school with auto-injectable epinephrine and work with the school nurse to have an emergency care plan in place. The NASN is inviting readers to visit its website at: <http://www.nasn.org/>. Readers will find a new multi-media news release, anaphylaxis tips and results of the NASN survey.

13. FEMA Updates National Response Framework

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has announced that the Biological Incident and the Food and Agriculture Incident Annexes have been updated and are [now available](#) on the Incident Annex page. To download the NRF, go to www.fema.gov/nrf.

14. CDC Releases 1918 Pandemic Flu Storybook

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released an online storybook containing narratives from survivors, families, and friends about one of the largest scourges ever on human kind – the 1918 influenza pandemic that killed millions of people around the world. The storybook provides valuable insight for public health officials preparing for the possibility of another pandemic sometime in our future. This year marks the 90th anniversary of the 1918 influenza pandemic. The internet [storybook](#) contains about 50 stories from individuals from 24 states around the country as well as photos and narrative videos from the storytellers.

15. Most U. S. Measles Cases Reported since 1996

More [measles](#) cases have been reported in the United States since Jan. 1, 2008 than during the same period in any year since 1996, according to a [report](#) just released in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Between January 1 and July 31, 2008, 131 cases were reported to CDC's [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\)](#). At least fifteen patients, including four children younger than 15 months of age, were hospitalized. No deaths have been reported. According to the report, many persons remain unvaccinated because of philosophical beliefs.

16. DHS Sponsors 5th Annual National Preparedness Month

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Ready Campaign (www.ready.gov) is sponsoring the fifth annual National Preparedness Month (NPM) in September with support from more than 2,700 NPM coalition members, the largest amount to date. NPM coalition members, consisting of national, regional, state, and local organizations, will combine efforts throughout the month of September to encourage all Americans to take steps to prepare for emergencies before they happen. For more information on the Ready Campaign and NPM, please visit www.ready.gov or www.listo.gov. Individuals can also call 1-800-BE-READY or 1-888-SE-LISTO for more emergency preparedness information.

17. CMS Releases Guide to Improve Innovative Technologies

Medicare beneficiaries and their health care providers may be able to take advantage of new advances in health care more quickly because innovators now have a new resource at their fingertips – a guide to Medicare coverage, coding, and payment issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The Innovator's Guide to Navigating CMS, released and

available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CouncilonTechInnov/> provides a roadmap to Medicare coverage, coding, and payment. This is the first time it has been presented in a single resource document. The guide was developed by the CMS Council for Technology and Innovation (CTI), a CMS-wide working group charged with streamlining and creating a more transparent process to get new technologies to patients more quickly. Additional information about CTI, including a downloadable copy of the Guide, is available at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CouncilonTechInnov/>. To read the CMS press release click [here](#).

18. FCC Reminds Communications Providers to Register for DIRS

With the evolving conditions in the Gulf Coast Region, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) urges all communications providers to participate in the FCC's Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS). DIRS is a voluntary, web-based system that communications companies, including wireless, wireline, broadcast, and cable providers, can use to report communications infrastructure status and situational awareness information during times of crisis. Please find news and other information about the FCC at: www.fcc.gov. In addition, providers needing emergency Special Temporary Authorizations (STAs) or needing to consult FCC Bureaus and Offices about their recovery efforts during the weekend or after hours can call the FCC's Operations Center, which is open 24 hours a day, at (202) 418-1122. Contact information during normal working hours and more comprehensive information on receiving STAs can be obtained at <http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/services/sta.html>.

19. FCC Seeks Comment on Implementation of NET 911 Improvement Act

The New and Emerging Technologies (NET) 911 Improvement Act of 2008 (NET 911 Act), signed into law on July 23, 2008, is designed to "promote and enhance public safety by facilitating the rapid deployment of IP enabled 911 and E911 services, encourage the Nation's transition to a national IP-enabled emergency network, and improve 911 and enhanced 911 (E911) access to those with disabilities." The FCC has filed a "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" towards implementing this new legislation. The Notice focuses on one particular obligation in the NET 911 Act: The Commission must, no later than October 21, 2008, issue regulations implementing certain key provisions that, among other things, ensure that providers of IP-enabled voice services have access to the capabilities they need to provide 911 and E911 service". For more information, download the following notices at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-08-195A1.pdf and http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-08-1963A1.pdf

20. Free Webinar Offered on New Regulation Regarding High Visibility Clothing

A free informational session on the new FHWA regulation that takes effect November 24, 2008 will be available online Sept. 4, from 1-2 PM EDT. This new standard, which impacts emergency responders, requires the use of high visibility clothing (as defined by ANSI/ISEA 107 standard) when working in the right-of-way on federal-aid highways. Speakers will be Hari Kalla, MUTCD Team Leader for FHWA's Office of Operations and Janice Bradley, Technical Director of the International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA). The session will also be recorded and made available in National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse's "Video Vault" for later viewing. To register for this week's seminar and for more information about the Clearinghouse, click [here](#).

21. City of Boise Seeks New Division Chief/Emergency Medical Services

The City of Boise is actively seeking an effective, experienced administrator as Emergency Medical Services Division Chief to direct and implement activities of Boise Fire Department personnel providing emergency medical services to the community. Please visit the recruitment

site at www.cityofboise.org for information and application instructions. The deadline for applications is 9/30/2008.

22. AEMS Recruiting Members for Congressional Emergency Medical Services Caucus

Advocates for EMS is promoting the formation of a Congressional caucus to educate Members of Congress on federal policy issues affecting the diverse delivery of care that constitute EMS. On its web site at www.advocatesforems.org, Advocates have provided instructions on how to contact Members of Congress asking them to participate, a copy of the "Dear Colleague" letter currently being circulated by Caucus Co-chairs, Congressman Boustany (LA), Ruppertsberger (MD), and Walz (MN), and a list of members that have already joined the Caucus.

23. Upcoming Events (*denotes event is newly added)

Sand Key EMS Summit 2008. Hosted by the Emergency Medicine Learning Resource & Center (EMLC). September 4-6, 2008. Sheraton Sand Key Resort. Clearwater Beach, FL. For more information, visit <http://www.emlrc.org/summit2008.htm>.

Webcast presented by Logistics Health on September 4 (10am-3pm CST) entitled, "The Pandemic Threat: Preparing an Organizational Response." Through the webcast, participants will learn the latest on the pandemic threat, corporate antiviral distribution, public and private sector roles, and legal implications. We will also feature a Q&A panel discussion with experts from both the public and private sectors. Participation is free and you may register online at <http://conference.logisticshealth.com>.

NEMSIS Software Developers Meeting. Sheraton Sand Key Resort. Clearwater Beach, Florida. September 6th, 2008. Please contact Harmony Grubb at (801) 585-9157 or harmony.grubb@hsc.utah.edu to register.

NAEMSE Annual Symposium 2008. September 10-15, 2008. St. Louis, MO. To download the program, go to http://www.naemse.org/symposium/2008_program.pdf.

The Pediatric Disaster Resource and Training Center at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles is hosting the Pediatric Disaster and Emergency Services National Summit, in collaboration with the Los Angeles Emergency Medical Services Agency, with funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The conference will be held in Los Angeles, CA on September 11th and 12th, 2008. For more information go to www.ped-trauma-chla.info.

2008 NASEMSO Annual Meeting, September 21-September 25, 2008, Hotel Murano (formerly Sheraton Hotel), Tacoma, WA For more information contact Kathy Robinson, NASEMSO Program Advisor at (703) 538-1799, ext 4 or email robinson@nasemso.org.

2008 ENA Annual Meeting. September 24-25, 2008, General Assembly. September 25-27, 2008 Scientific Assembly. Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, MN. Additional info available at www.ena.org.

2008 NAEMT Annual Meeting October 13-17, 2008. Las Vegas, Nevada. Conference web site: <http://www.naemt.org/annualMeetingAndExpo/>.

*NIOSH is seeking input from stakeholders and manufacturers on the draft document, "The Potential Modification of the NIOSH Statement of Standard for a Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Full Facepiece Air-Purifying Respirator." Comments will be accepted until October 16, 2008. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/review/public/139>

2008 ACEP Annual Meeting. October 25-26, 2008, Council Meeting. October 27-30, 2008, Scientific Assembly. Chicago IL. See www.acep.org for additional information.

*Risk and Crisis Communication Forum. November 3, 2008. Capital Hilton, 1001 16th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036 (202) 393-1000. To register http://www.marketaccess.org/booking_form.asp30.

The Emergency Medicine Learning Resource & Center (EMLC) and the Florida EMSC program is presenting the 2008 Prehospital Pediatric Education Symposium November 11-12, 2008 in Orlando, Florida. This symposium is designed to create an educational experience that will empower EMS and ED personnel to provide the highest quality emergency care to their pediatric patients. Paramedics, EMT's, Nurses, Physician, Physicians Assistants and other allied health professionals involved in providing pediatric emergency medical care should attend. Please go to: <http://www.emlrc.org/prepeds2008.htm> for more information.

Mark Your Calendar: Rural EMS and Trauma Summit series conference-- Hosted by the Critical Illness and Trauma Foundation. August 25-27, 2009. The Summit at Deer Valley Lodges Park City, UT. For more information, contact Nels Sanddal at nsanddal@citmt.org.

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