

# STELLAR GOOD NEWS

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## Stellar Software

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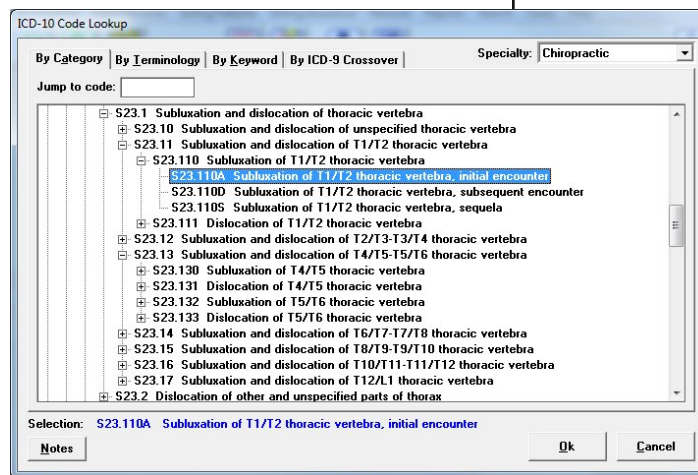
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*Read previous issues of Stellar Good News on the resources page of our website!*

## New ICD-10 Code Lookup Tool

We are pleased to announce the addition of a new ICD-10 lookup tool for Stellar which will be available when setting the diagnoses for a patient.



To make the new tool available, you will first need to update Stellar to the latest version. Give us a call at your convenience and we can walk you through the update process, or if you do not have high speed internet we can mail you an update CD.

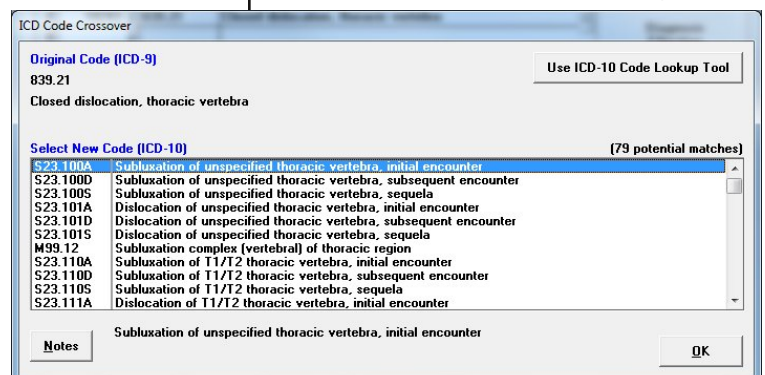
After the update is done, you will be able to access the new tool after changing a patient's diagnosis to ICD-10 by clicking the ICD-10 checkbox in the top right of the patient's diagnosis tab. Stellar will attempt to convert the patient's current diagnoses to ICD-10 using the ICD-9 to ICD-10 crossover list.

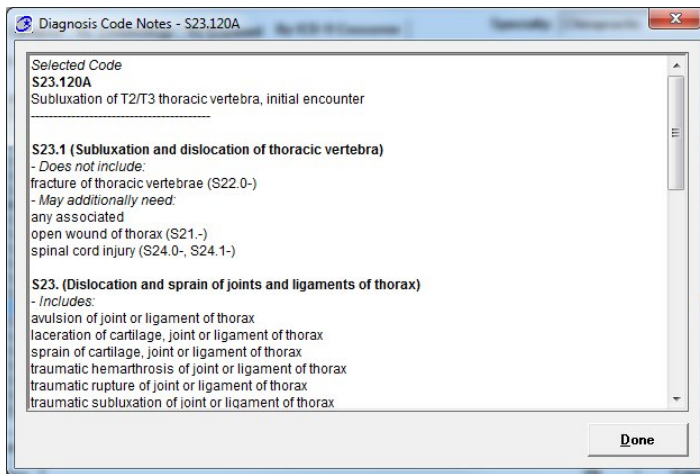
During this process the new ICD-10 code lookup tool will be available by clicking the button in the top right. After the process is complete and the patient has been converted to ICD-10, clicking the little down arrow in the Key or ICD column will also display the ICD-10 Code Lookup tool.

The new tool allows for looking up diagnoses using a tabular/categorical listing, an alphabetical terminology index, a keyword search, or an ICD-9 crossover. In addition, code and section notes are available to provide additional information which may help you find

the correct code.

The listings can be restricted to only those codes considered applicable to a selected specialty (which defaults to the current provider's specialty), although you can also select Other/Show All to access the entire ICD-10 code list. The specialty settings will be adjusted in the future; the current settings are simply an initial attempt to list only relevant codes. If you find that you are using codes





that are not shown for your specialty, or feel that some codes will never be used by your specialty, please let us know so that we can improve the quality of the specialty settings.

Double-clicking a code on the Terminology, Keyword, or ICD-9 Crossover tabs will also jump to that code's area in Category listing so that you can easily review similar codes within that category.

As always, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us!

## Further ICD-10 Notes

### Diagnosis Code Usage Report

In addition to the ICD-10 code lookup tool, we have also added a diagnosis code Usage Report which provides a statistical breakdown of the frequency with which you have been using certain diagnosis codes. You can access this report by going to Records, Diagnoses, and clicking the Usage Report button.

**We recommend printing this report and using the first page or so as a guide to the most common ICD-9 codes for which you will be needing ICD-10 equivalents.**

**Unfortunately, you may not be able to rely entirely on ICD-10 equivalents to ICD-9 coding. ICD-10 is much more specific and has a great many codes (especially cause of injury codes) which may be needed and do not necessarily have any ICD-9 equivalent. For this reason, we highly recommend attending at least one seminar on ICD-10 coding if you have not done so already.**

Remember that your documentation must

support your coding, and that more precise coding (and therefore documentation) may be required for payment.

### Claim Formats

We have had a few questions regarding claim formats for use with ICD-10. To clarify, the current 02-12 paper claim form (look in the bottom right) is ICD-10 ready, as is the 5010 electronic claim format. If you have any reason to believe you are not using either of these, give us a call and we can double check your settings.

### Initial, Subsequent, Sequela

A few users have also asked about the proper usage of Initial Encounter, Subsequent Encounter, and Sequela which are part of many codes. Our current understanding is that Initial Encounter is similar to the Medicare definition of active treatment, while Subsequent Encounter is similar to maintenance treatment (or recovery, after care, and follow up), and Sequela relates to conditions or complications which arise as a direct result of another condition.

Here are two articles we found about this issue:

<http://tinyurl.com/nrconfl>

<http://tinyurl.com/psaepwb>

### Once more unto the breach, dear friends!

In case you missed it, we discussed several other questions about ICD-10 back in our May newsletter, all of which still apply:

<http://stellarchiro.com/Resources/May2015.pdf>

You're not alone if you think the government is crazy for forcing everyone to jump to this new system in one day with no transition period, and

it's impossible to guess just how much of a mess this whole thing is going to cause. If it makes you feel any better, the insurance companies and hospitals are probably just as freaked out as you are about all this, if not more so (they don't have to deal with just a subset; they have to deal with all of them!).

Please let us know any questions you may have or issues that may arise and we will address them as quickly

as possible. October will likely be very interesting for everyone (in the Chinese curse sort of way), but we're here to assist you and help you get your claims through whatever may come your way! Good luck everyone!

V CODE	DESCRIPTION	COUNT	PCT
9 739.2	Somat dysfunc thorac reg	2160	16.6%
9 724.1	Pain in thoracic spine	1966	15.1%
9 724.2	Lumbago	1895	14.6%
9 739.3	Somat dysfunc lumbar reg	1461	11.2%
9 739.4	Somat dysfunc sacral reg	1382	10.6%
9 739.1	Somat dysfunc cervic reg	689	5.3%
9 723.4	Brachial neuritis NOS	546	4.2%
9 722.52	Lumbo/lumbosac disc degen	514	3.9%
9 724.3	Sciatica	355	2.7%
9 722.51	Thoracic disc degen	294	2.3%
9 847.1	Sprain thoracic region	248	1.9%
9 839.21	Disloc thoracic vert-cl	227	1.7%
9 847.0	Sprain of neck	214	1.6%
9 846.1	Sprain sacroiliac	171	1.3%
9 847.2	Sprain lumbar region	171	1.3%
9 839.05	Disloc 5th cerv vert-cl	150	1.2%
9 839.20	Dislocat lumbar vert-cl	135	1.0%
9 722.4	Cervical disc degen	109	0.8%
9 839.42	Dislocat sacrum-closed	70	0.5%
9 846.0	Sprain lumbosacral	69	0.5%
9 839.06	Disloc 6th cerv vert-cl	44	0.3%
9 307.81	Tension headache	42	0.3%
9 840.4	Sprain rotator cuff	29	0.2%
9 723.1	Cervicalgia	18	0.1%
9 839.07	Disloc 7th cerv vert-cl	16	0.1%
9 844.1	Sprain medial collat lig	6	0.0%
9 719.46	Joint pain-1/leg	4	0.0%