



November 20, 2014

Ms. Donna Pickett, MPH, RHIA
Co-Chair, ICD-10 Coordination and Maintenance Committee
National Center for Health Statistics
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
3311 Toledo Road, Room 2402
Hyattsville, MD 20782

Submitted electronically

Re: September 23, 2014 C&M Meeting
Proposal for new code for sarcopenia

Dear Ms. Pickett,

Thank you for the opportunity to present at the September 2014 meeting of the ICD-10 Coordination and Maintenance Committee. We're hopeful that a new ICD-10-CM code will be established to uniquely identify sarcopenia, to parallel the clinical community's recognition of this disorder.

We appreciated the scrutiny given to the original proposal by audience members at the meeting and are obliged to them for their discerning comments. Since the meeting, we have been working with Dr. Laura Powers of the American Academy of Neurology to strengthen the proposal. Aging in Motion and AAN shared the same objective: to be able to recognize sarcopenia distinctly in the encoded data while also precluding any opportunities for abuse, either clinically or from a coding perspective. We're confident that the revised version of the proposal we developed together accomplishes this objective.

The revised proposal is attached, with changes from the original proposal shown in red. As you'll see, the changes consist of two additions: 1) a "code first" note and 2) an inclusion note. These additions make clear that sarcopenia can be coded either as a stand-alone disorder, as in age-related sarcopenia, or as a secondary condition associated with primary muscle and myoneural disorders, such as in sarcopenia due to mitochondrial myopathy. The changes address the concerns expressed at the meeting about conflating sarcopenia with underlying disorders while still allowing sarcopenia to be separately identified.

As you may know, we had been communicating informally with Dr. Berglund as we worked through the issues and options with AAN. He is familiar with other possible options we considered and discarded as we came to the revised version of the proposal.

We understand that AAN will be commenting separately, so we would simply note that Dr. Powers reviewed the issues with her colleagues and this version met with their satisfaction. The scientific advisory board of Aging in Motion was likewise very satisfied with this version. We feel it ameliorates the initial concerns with the original proposal and makes for a better final code.

We will be eager to learn if we need to return to March 2015 meeting of the Coordination and Maintenance Committee to present the revised version, and we will certainly be happy to do so. However, we hope the Committee will feel that the changes and consensus reached with AAN will suffice, and that a new ICD-10-CM code for sarcopenia can be created as of October 1, 2017.

If you or other members of the Committee have any questions or comments about the revised proposal, please contact me at 202-293-2856 or cbens@agingresearch.org. Thank you again for allowing us to present and for working with us toward a beneficial new code for sarcopenia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia Bens". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Cynthia Bens
Vice President, Public Policy

On behalf of Aging in Motion (AIM), a project of the Alliance for Aging Research

TABULAR MODIFICATIONS

	M62	Other disorders of muscle	
	M62.5	Muscle wasting and atrophy, not elsewhere classified	
add note		Excludes1: ...	<u>sarcopenia (M62.84)</u>
	M62.8	Other specified disorders of muscle	
	M62.81	Muscle weakness (generalized)	
add note		Excludes1: muscle weakness in sarcopenia (M62.84)	
new code		<u>M62.84</u> Sarcopenia	
		Age-related sarcopenia	
		Code first underlying disease, if applicable, such as:	
		Primary disorders of muscles (G71.-)	
		Other and unspecified myopathies (G72.-)	
		Disorders of myoneural junction and muscle disease in diseases classified elsewhere (G73.-)	
	R53	Malaise and fatigue	
	R53.1	Weakness	
add note		Excludes1: ...	<u>sarcopenia (M62.84)</u>
	R54	Age-related physical disability	
add note		Excludes1: ...	<u>sarcopenia (M62.84)</u>