

# Education and Training



## ZOLL Data Systems

Implementing  
Condition Codes in  
RescueNet Billing



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# Understanding Medical Conditions List

CMS released the medical conditions list on December 23, 2005 in Pub 100-04. That publication details the ambulance conditions list and instructions for use<sup>1</sup>. This document and corresponding web seminar summarize the official publication and provide directions for implementing the list in your RescueNet Billing software.

<b>Emergency Conditions - Non-Traumatic</b>						
<b>ICD9 Primary Code</b>	<b>ICD9 Alternative Specific Code</b>	<b>Condition (General)</b>	<b>Condition (Specific)</b>	<b>Service Level</b>	<b>Comments and Examples (not all-inclusive)</b>	<b>HCPCS Crosswalk</b>
535.50	458.9, 780.2, 787.01, 787.02, 787.03, 789.01, 789.02, 789.03, 789.04, 789.05, 789.06, 789.07, 789.09, 789.60 through 789.69, or 789.40 through 789.49 PLUS any other code from 780 through 799 except 793, 794, and 795.	Severe abdominal pain	With other signs or symptoms	ALS	Nausea, vomiting, fainting, pulsatile mass, distention, rigid, tenderness on exam, guarding.	A0427/A0433
789.00	726.2, 789.01, 789.02, 789.03, 789.04, 789.05, 789.06, 789.07, or 789.09.	Abdominal pain	Without other signs or symptoms	BLS		A0429
427.9	426.0, 426.3, 426.4, 426.6, 426.11, 426.13, 426.50, 426.53, 427.0, 427.1, 427.2, 427.31, 427.32, 427.41, 427.42, 427.5, 427.60, 427.61, 427.69, 427.81, 427.89, 785.0, 785.50, 785.51, 785.52, or 785.59.	Abnormal cardiac rhythm/Cardiac dysrhythmia.	Potentially life-threatening	ALS	Bradycardia, junctional and ventricular blocks, non-sinus tachycardias, PVC's >6, bi and trigeminy, ventricular tachycardia, ventricular fibrillation, atrial flutter, PEA, asystole, AICD/AED Fired	A0427/A0433
780.8	782.5 or 782.6	Abnormal skin signs		ALS	Diaphoresis, cyanosis, delayed cap refill, poor turgor, mottled.	A0427/A0433
796.4	458.9, 780.6, 785.9, 796.2, or 796.3 PLUS any other code from 780 through 799.	Abnormal vital signs (includes abnormal pulse oximetry).	With or without symptoms.	ALS		A0427/A0433
995.0	995.1, 995.2, 995.3, 995.4, 995.60, 995.61, 995.62, 995.63, 995.64, 995.65, 995.66, 995.67, 995.68, 995.69 or 995.7.	Allergic reaction	Potentially life-threatening	ALS	Other emergency conditions, rapid progression of symptoms, prior hx. Of anaphylaxis, wheezing, difficulty swallowing.	A0427/A0433
692.9	692.0, 692.1, 692.2, 692.3, 692.4, 692.5, 692.6, 692.70, 692.71, 692.72, 692.73, 692.74, 692.75, 692.76, 692.77, 692.79, 692.81, 692.82, 692.83, 692.89, 692.9, 693.0, 693.1, 693.8, 693.9, 695.9, 698.9, 708.9, 782.1.	Allergic reaction	Other	BLS	Hives, itching, rash, slow onset, local swelling, redness, erythema.	A0429

<sup>1</sup> CMS and the committee that developed the Medical Conditions List acknowledge that the list of condition codes as defined by the Primary ICD9 codes represent a complete list that can be used to successfully code all claims where Medicare is primary. However, they also caution that it may be possible that other commercial insurance carriers may not interpret these codes as defined in the CMS Medical Conditions List, as the ICD9 code may represent a different definition, as defined by the AMA, to the commercial insurance carriers. With this in mind it is recommended that your organization continue all current coding practices for non-Medicare claims to ensure the most appropriate ICD9 codes are communicated to each carrier for the adjudication process.

## ICD9 Primary Code

This column contains general codes that define the condition of the patient at time of transport (as described in the other columns). Billing staff or ambulance personnel with limited ICD9 coding skills would pick one or **one of the two codes** from this column that best fit the transport. It is important to note that the codes contained in this column are intended to be comprehensive and applicable to all transports billed to Medicare.

## ICD9 Alternative Specific Code

If billing staff or ambulance personnel have more advanced clinical knowledge or ICD9 coding skills, they may choose a code from this column. **It is not necessary to select a code from the Primary Code column and then use a second code from the Alternative Specific Code column.** However, some codes in this column are followed by the word “PLUS”. For these codes, you would choose a code from the top part of the list, and use at least one additional code from the bottom part of the list (after the word “PLUS”).

ICD9 Primary Code	ICD9 Alternative Specific Code	Condition (General)	Condition (Specific)	Service Level	Comments and Examples (not all-inclusive)	HCPCS Crosswalk
535.50	458.9, 780.2, 787.01, 787.02, 787.03, 789.01, 789.02, 789.03, 789.04, 789.05, 789.06, 789.07, 789.09, 789.60 through 789.69, or 789.40 through 789.49 <b>PLUS</b> any other code from 780 through 799 except 793, 794, and 795.	Severe abdominal pain	With other signs or symptoms	ALS	Nausea, vomiting, fainting, pulsatile mass, distention, rigid, tenderness on exam, guarding.	A0427/A0433

## Service Level

If an ALS level ambulance is sent to a call that was received by the dispatcher as needing an ALS assessment, and upon arrival on scene, the ambulance crew encounters a BLS level condition, the claim should include two condition codes. The first defines the reason for transport (patient’s condition) and a second code that corresponds to the information captured by dispatch. For customer’s using RescueNet Dispatch and Billing version 3.8, this information can be captured through the Nature of Call field (discussed later).

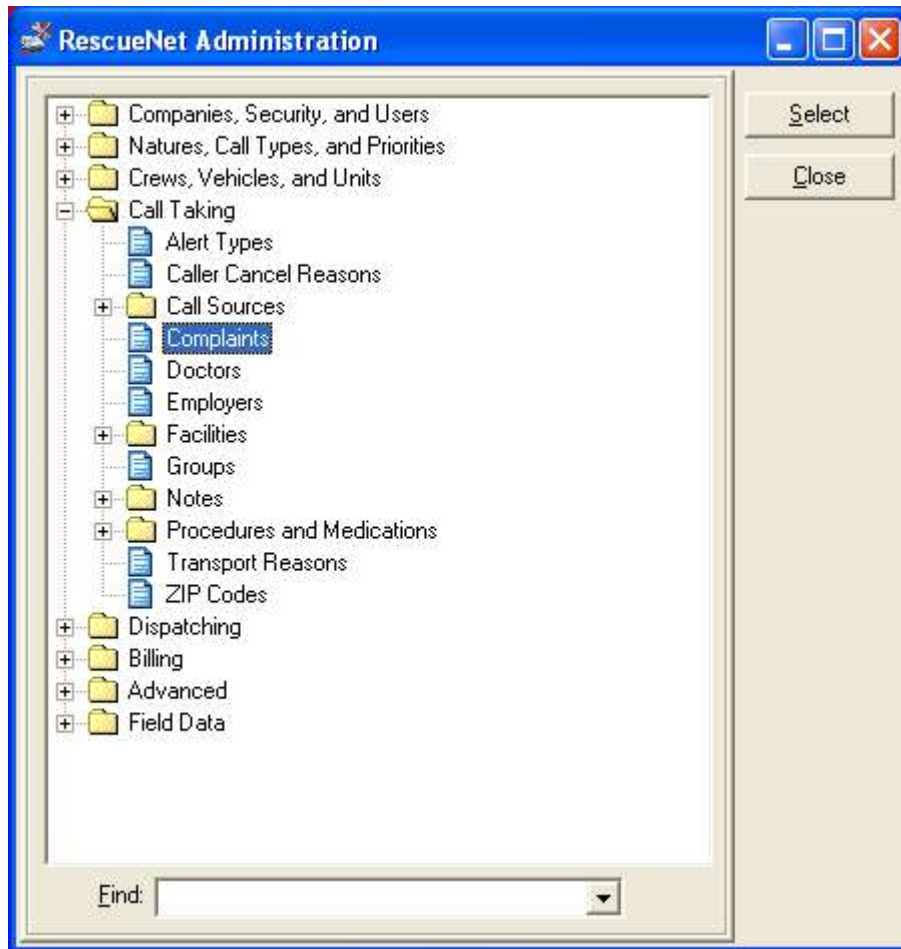
## Transportation Indicators

CMS has also defined Transportation Indications that may be included on the claim to further define the transport. If used, these indicators would be placed in the Narrative box on 2-Medical Tab of Call Taking.

The screenshot shows the 'Medical' tab of the ambulance billing software. The 'Complaints' section is active, displaying a list of conditions. The selected condition is 'Abdominal Pain Severe-With Other Signs Or Symptoms' with ICD-9 code '535.50' and Policy 'ALS Emergency - non-traumatic'. Below this, there are fields for 'Other Complaint', 'Doctors', 'Referring/Ordering', 'Ordering Facility', 'Department', 'Caller', and 'Phone'. At the bottom, there is a 'Narrative' field which is circled in red and contains the code 'C4'. There are also buttons for 'Ambulance Certification' and 'Details'.

## Updating the Complaints List in RescueNet Billing

Your system's current list of Complaints may or may not already contain some or all of the ICD9 codes defined on the Medical Conditions List. Use RescueNet Administration to access the Complaints list.



**\*\*Remember, before any ICD9 code (either from the Primary Code column or the Alternative Specific Code column in the Medical Conditions List) can be used on a trip/claim, it must first exist in RescueNet Administration. Each agency is responsible for adding, editing and maintaining their Complaints list.**

## Using the Policy Field

You may want to use the Policy field inside of each complaint to make additional notes about the Service Level, HCPCS Code(s) for each complaint and/or any other comments about the condition that would not fit in the Description field. This may be helpful to the dispatch or billing staff that may be adding a complaint to 2-Medical Tab of a trip. This information does NOT transmit as part of the claim.

**Edit Complaint**

Description:

Export Code:

Suggested Priority:

Speed Code:

Run Sheet State Code:

Always Show

Warn dispatcher when trip is assigned

Warn call taker when trip is taken

Policy:

Default ICD-9:

Payor	ICD-9 Override
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Expected Procedures
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## Use of Nature of Call Field in v3.8

A Nature of Call Field was added in RescueNet Dispatch version 3.8. This field can also be configured to add a condition code (ICD9 code) to the trip at the time the call is taken by the dispatcher.

Nature of Call can be found in RescueNet Administration, under the Natures, Call Types, and Priorities folder.



The screenshot shows the 'Natures' configuration window. It features a search field labeled 'Find Nature:' with navigation buttons '<<', '<', '>', and '>>'. Below the search field is a table with the following data:

Nature	Call Type	Priority	Speed Code
<None>			
Abdominal Pain			1A1
Allergic Reaction			
Amputation			
Assault/Rape			
Back Pain			
Bite/Stings			
Breathing Problems			
Burn(s)			
Cardiac/Resp Arrest			
Chest Pain			
Choking	ALS	Immediate Response	
CO2/Inhale/Hazmat			
Convulsions/Seizures	ALS	Immediate Response	

On the right side of the table, there are four buttons: 'Add', 'Edit', 'Delete', and 'Done'.

Edit an existing Nature to include the appropriate ICD9 code.

The image shows a software dialog box titled "Edit Nature". The dialog box has a blue title bar with a question mark icon and a close button (X). The main area contains the following fields:

- Nature: Syncope/Unconscious
- Call Type: ALS
- Priority: Immediate Response
- Complaint: Unconscious/Fainting/Syncope/Near S:
- Speed Code: (empty)

On the right side of the dialog, there are two buttons: "OK" and "Cancel".

## Appendix A: Configuring Payor Specific Overrides for Complaints

It is important to remember that the condition code you select will not change if you need to change the primary payor from Medicare to a commercial or other type of payor, unless you use the payor override functionality in the Complaint configuration. You need to ascertain if insurers other than Medicare will accept the 'crosswalked' ICD-9 code, as the intended description of the condition code does not exactly match the definition supplied by the AMA.

In situations in which you determine the 'crosswalked' ICD-9 code is only appropriate for use when billing Medicare and prefer to use different ICD-9 code for all other payors we recommend configuring the condition code as follows:

1. Define the condition code as usual with the medical condition as the description and policy information.
2. Remove the 'crosswalked' ICD-9 code from the default ICD-9 code field and instead enter the desired ICD-9 code you wish to submit to all other payors besides Medicare.
3. Enter a payor-specific ICD-9 override for Medicare and enter the 'crosswalked' ICD-9 code here.

The screenshot shows the 'Edit Complaint' dialog box with the following fields and options:

- Description: Difficulty Breathing
- Export Code: [Empty]
- Suggested Priority: [Dropdown]
- Speed Code: [Empty]
- Run Sheet State Code: [Empty]
- Always Show
- Warn dispatcher when trip is assigned
- Warn call taker when trip is taken
- Policy: ALS/Emergency - Non-Traumatic
- Default ICD-9: 786.00
- Table of Payor Specific Overrides:

Payor	ICD-9 Override
Medicare	786.05
- Buttons: Add, Edit, Delete
- Expected Procedures: [Empty]
- Buttons: Add, Edit, Delete, Up, Down