

What are ICD-10 codes?

ICD-10 diagnosis codes (International Classification of Diseases and related health problems – 10th Revision) are used in the healthcare industry to allow insurers and medical schemes to accurately identify the conditions for which members sought healthcare services.

It is a coding system owned and maintained by the World Health Organisation (WHO), that translates the written description of medical and health information into codes, for example, I10 is an ICD-10 code for Essential (primary) hypertension and H40.9 for Glaucoma, unspecified.

Why does the medical scheme need an ICD-10 code on your claim?

The Medical Schemes Act requires that an account received from a doctor, specialist, or dentist to reflect the appropriate ICD-10 codes.

- This helps the medical scheme determine what benefits you are entitled to and how these could be paid.
- This becomes very important if you have a PMB (Prescribed Minimum Benefit) condition. These conditions must be paid in full by your medical scheme, without any co-payment, subject to the scheme rules. PMB conditions can only be identified by ICD-10 codes. Therefore, if the correct diagnosis information is not provided, your PMB-related services might be paid from the wrong benefit, or not paid at all.

For a medical scheme to successfully process a claim, the service provider's account would need to include specific information (for example, a valid practice number, date of service, full name, and birth date of the patient, [ICD-10 code and tariff code or NAPPI code](#)). The relevant codes used by the treating healthcare service provider can be described as follows:

- **Tariff codes** serve as the standard for electronic information exchange in the private healthcare industry for procedure and consultation claims, and
- **NAPPI code** (National Pharmaceutical Product Index) is a unique identifier for medicines, and surgical or consumable products.

What to do if you have a problem regarding ICD-10 codes with your medical scheme

Contact the accounts department at your treating doctor's practice to ensure that they used the correct ICD-10 code on their account. Every healthcare provider is familiar with ICD-10 coding and, in most cases, where there are problems with the ICD-10 coding on a claim to the medical scheme, it is because the incorrect or incomplete ICD-10 code(s) were used.

24 to 30 April is World Immunisation Week

As a result of World Immunisation Week, more people - and their communities - will be protected from vaccine-preventable diseases. The development of vaccines has transformed public health, preventing the spread of fatal diseases and saving people's lives.

Global data	2021	2022	
The number of children missing out on any vaccination	18.1 million	14.3 million	Improved
Coverage of a third dose of vaccine protecting against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTP3)	81%	84%	Recovered
The proportion of children receiving a first dose of measles vaccine	81%	83%	Increased
Global coverage for the first dose of HPV in girls	16%	21%	Increased

Coverage of yellow fever vaccine in the countries at risk of it is 48%, well below the 80% coverage that is recommended. Yellow fever is an acute viral haemorrhagic disease transmitted by infected mosquitoes.

Many examples can be cited, including the eradication of smallpox worldwide in 1979, following a world-wide vaccination program led by WHO. Throughout history, smallpox has killed hundreds of millions of people and was one of the most feared diseases. Today it is non-existent, thanks to immunisation efforts.



Important:



The ICD-10 code will always accompany the tariff code or NAPPI code as it will identify the condition/s for which members sought healthcare services. A medical scheme may reject the claim if they do not receive the required information.