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SPEECH-LANGUAGE-  
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# New Diagnosis Codes for Fluency

Effective October 1, 2010

New and modified International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) codes for **fluency disorders** (stuttering) go into effect October 1, 2010. The new fluency codes better capture the nature and description of fluency disorders. This table below shows at-a-glance the changes in coding fluency disorders that providers, health plans, and consumers need to know.

Code	New/Modified Description	Examples of Use
<b>307.0</b>	Adult onset fluency disorder	An adult develops stuttering. No organic basis is evident. Appears “psychogenic” in origin.
<b>315.35</b>	Childhood onset fluency disorder  <i>See <b>Additional Information</b> below</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adult who has stuttered since childhood</li><li>• Teen who has stuttered since childhood</li><li>• Child who begins stuttering in early childhood</li><li>• Older child with language impairment who begins to stutter prior to adolescence.</li></ul>
<b>784.52</b>	Fluency disorder in conditions classified elsewhere, stuttering in conditions classified elsewhere [code first underlying disease or conditions, such as Parkinson’s disease (332.0)]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fluency disorder as result of Parkinson’s Code in following order: 1) 332.0 2) 784.52</li><li>• Fluency disorder as a result of TBI Code in following order: 1) 850.2 (concussion) 2) 784.52</li></ul>
<b>438.14</b>	Fluency disorder (in 438 section, late effects of cerebrovascular disease)	Adult with stuttering as a result of stroke/CVA

## Additional Information

- Health plans should not deny **315.35** only because it is in the *Specific Delays in Development* section of ICD-9-CM. This diagnostic code is for adults and children whose stuttering has an observed onset during childhood. Health plans that exclude “developmental” conditions must realize that **315.35** is **not** a developmental condition, and payers should not exclude coverage based on that exclusion alone. The wording used in **315.35** was deliberately chosen to reflect the fact that the stuttering is not present early in the child’s development, but rather has an observable onset, typically in preschool, and after normal speech-language development and fluency are evident.
- **315.35** should also be used to describe cluttering and stammering.