

ICD-10 vs CPT vs HCPCS Infographic

A beginner workflow-awareness comparison of diagnosis, procedure, and supply/service code families.

TYPE Infographic

WHO Medical VA, Medical Biller, AR, claims, and beginner RCM learners.

WHEN Use when learning how codes support claims without trying to become a coder from this resource.

HOW Read left to right: what each code family answers, where it appears, and what can go wrong if it is mismatched.

Workflow stage: Middle RCM - coding awareness before charge entry and claim submission

Workflow awareness only: this is not coding certification, coding advice, or permission to assign codes.

ICD-10-CM

Why was the patient seen? Diagnosis/reason for the visit or condition documented.

CPT

What professional service or procedure was performed by the provider.

HCPCS Level II

What supply, drug, equipment, ambulance, or certain non-CPT service was provided.

Modifier

Extra claim detail that may change how a service is processed.

Connection

Diagnosis, procedure, provider, place, auth, and documentation must make sense together.

Risk

Wrong or unsupported code details may trigger edits, denials, or documentation review.

COMMON MISTAKE AVOIDED

Avoid changing or choosing codes without documentation, approval, and qualified coding guidance.

NO-PHI REMINDER

Do not use or enter real patient names, dates of birth, insurance IDs, member IDs, claim numbers, medical record numbers, addresses, phone numbers, diagnoses, treatment details, login details, or protected health information. Use fictional data only when practicing.

EDUCATIONAL DISCLAIMER

This resource is for beginner-friendly healthcare admin education only. It is not medical advice, legal advice, coding certification, payer-specific billing authority, a replacement for employer training, or a guarantee of employment. Always verify current requirements with official sources, employer policy, payer rules, client instructions, and updated guidance.

SOURCE / REVIEW NOTE

This beginner resource introduces coding-related terms for workflow awareness only. It is not coding certification or coding advice. Verify current code use with official coding resources, employer policy, payer rules, and qualified coding guidance. Last reviewed: July 2026.