



Reference: ICD-10 Code Rejections  
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## **Circular 42 of 2016: ICD-10 Code Rejected as Duplicates**

It has been communicated to the Council for Medical Schemes that claims systems cannot accommodate combination coding in cases where the same code needs to be repeated. These specifically include instances where the common dagger code is repeated for multiple asterisk codes and/or when the same code is a dagger code as well as a neoplasm code that requires a morphology code.

According to the ICD-10 Coding Rules on combination coding a single dagger code can have multiple asterisk codes and/or morphology codes. Once the dagger or neoplasm codes is repeated on the claim the claim systems recognizes it as a duplicate and the claim / claim line is rejected. An example of said coding on a claim is:

**C90.0**  
M8000/3  
**C90.0**  
D63.0\*  
E11.9  
I95.9

As code C90.0 is repeated in the above example the claim is rejected with a rejection message of duplicate coding. The coding on the claim is however correct as the morphology code and the asterisk code may not be used on its own. This situation may prevail in other combination coding therefore systems must be able to cater for all combination coding rules.

It has further been reported that claims systems do not make provision for the specified number of ICD-10 codes as Technical User Guide compiled by the Ministerial ICD-10 Task Team to define standards and guidelines for ICD-10 coding implementation (18 October 2012 Final Version 1.00) available at <http://www.health.gov.za/index.php/shortcodes/2015-03-29-10-42-47/2015-06-10-09-23-36/2015-06-10-09-26-11>

Medical schemes and third party administrators should ensure that their claims systems make provision for the following number of codes per claim line:

Hospital claims

1 Primary Code  
29 Secondary Codes

Provider claims (this include all other healthcare providers)

1 Primary Code  
9 Secondary Codes

Medical schemes and third party administrators are herewith notified that the accreditation unit will specifically test claims systems for the processing of combination codes in future.



**Mr D Lehutjo**  
**Acting CEO and Registrar**  
**Council for Medical Schemes**