

TurboCoderTM

NEWSLETTER

eComPress® for fast accurate clinical coding

Volume 1 Number 3 – November 2012

Welcome to the special November issue of *TurboCoder* newsletter. Its aims and goals are to provide a communication link between Clinical Coders, Health Information Managers and clinicians who use the eComPress ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS *TurboCoder* – and those who would like to code **FASTER** and more **ACCURATELY**.

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New Features in *TurboCoder*

Eurofield Information Solutions (EIS) has recently undertaken further development work to *TurboCoder*. The EIS commitment to continuous improvement is illustrated in the following enhancements to the Search facility that will feature in the next update:

Pre-emptive Search Help (PSH)

TurboCoder Pre-emptive Search Help (PSH) detects if the word or words you are typing are spelt wrongly. If the word(s) cannot be found within *TurboCoder*, a list of alternatives are suggested as you type in the search box. PSH is not based on a generic dictionary, but all the words in the *TurboCoder* publication – so all suggested word or word strings are relevant to what you need.

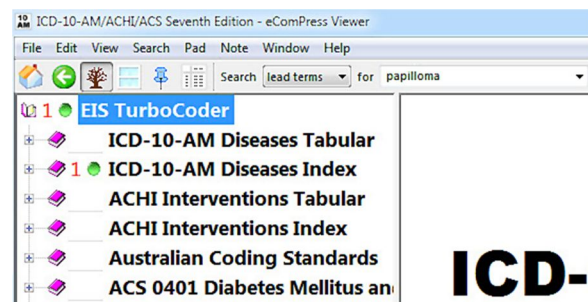
PSH can detect up to 3 mistyped characters or typos per word in the search box, and will offer you a selection of words or strings of words to suit. And also is ideal to help with your Medical Terminology spelling.

Lead Term Search

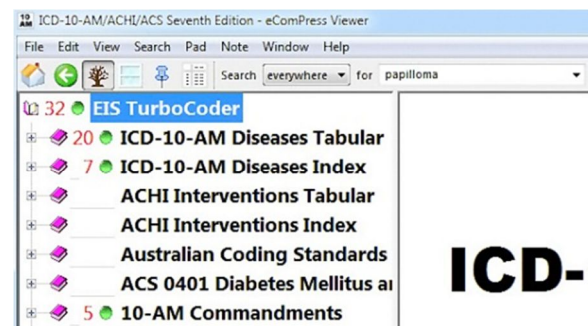
TurboCoder search is further enhanced with 'Lead Term' searching. This enables you to go directly to the Lead Terms in the Index of Diseases and Index of Procedures. In doing so, providing a fast direct link to code required.

The toolbar reflects this change with an additional toggle for 'Lead Term' or 'Everywhere'. You are now able to search the 'Lead Term' in the Indexes and then change to 'Everywhere' and maintain the current display

status but highlight all the search hits (*see below*).



Searching 'Lead Term' produces single direct link to the Index of Diseases and Index of Procedures indicated by the green dot.



Searching 'Everywhere' shows all hits in the entire classification.

Overall, PSH and Lead Term Search are fast and will save you time and improve the productivity and accuracy of your medical coding. These new features will be available soon to all current *TurboCoder* users in the next update release on completion of our stringent QA process.

2012 AIHMA Conference Chicago, USA

Eurofield Information Solutions (EIS) proudly exhibited the US versions of *TurboCoder* for the first time at the AHIMA National Convention held in Chicago in early October 2012.

The show was a great success for EIS and *TurboCoder* with AHIMA executives confirming the attendance was well up on previous years. The booth was attended by Alfred Papallo and Jeff Reid and we were kept very busy demonstrating the *TurboCoder*, with each participant qualifying for entry for the *TurboCoder* Draw.



TurboCoder winner, Akeela Jamal with Jeff Reid at the AHIMA Conference in Chicago



TurboCoder winner - Michelle Shipley

We ran the draw for ten free copies of the 2013 ICD-10-CM/PCS *TurboCoder* and the winners were delighted with their prizes when they picked them up from the booth.

Congratulations to our winners: Cathy Banks, Deborah Dillard, Tina Haynes, Akeela Jamal, Korey Jorgensen, Gerri Magee, Phyllis Miller, Michelle Shipley, Yvonne Stiller and Peggy Wolfe.

2012 HIMAA Conference Gold Coast, Australia

EIS also exhibited at the HIMAA National Conference held at the Marriott Resort on the Gold Coast late in October 2012. EIS shared the booth with ClariSoft. The shared booth was attended by Rodney Bernard and Michael Richter from ClariSoft. This combination allowed visitors to view the newly rebranded *TurboCoder* and ClariSoft's *Clinical Coding Assistant* Casemix grouping software.

The booth was very well attended and gave us the opportunity to not only display *TurboCoder*, but also to meet many of our current users.

In the lead up and at the HIMAA conference we held draws to win personal copies of the current ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS Seventh Edition *TurboCoder*.

Congratulations to all the conference *TurboCoder* draw winners – Ros Daly, Lara Finlayson, Wanda Fu, Daren Kelm, Heather Paulet and Garry Waller.



TurboCoder draw winner, Lara Finlayson with Rod Bernard at the HIMAA Conference

Congratulations also to our online winners leading up to the conference: Michael Kedari, Conor Murphy and Phillipa Smith.

Clinical Coders get the code right with *TurboCoder*

The following is extracted from our recent case study into the use of *TurboCoder* by contract coders. The report is also available from the *TurboCoder* website: www.turbocoder.com.au

Clinical coding is the task of applying standard codes to clinical statements. The codes make it possible to easily document the type and frequency of procedures being undertaken in public and private hospitals, medical clinics, day surgeries and other health facilities. A patient's coding data is integral to billing and an essential prerequisite for any facility seeking to submit a health insurance claim. In Australia, where activity-based funding was introduced on July 1, 2012, coding data will now form the basis upon which any health facility receives public funding.

As Louise Matthews, President of the Clinical Coders' Society of Australia Inc. and Principal of Matthews Health Coding Solutions Pty Ltd notes, "Coding substantially contributes to income for hospitals. A hospital can potentially lose money if a record is not coded correctly."

Coding is a task that requires speed, accuracy and efficiency. Each disease or procedure has to be matched to the right code. This requires a reliable reference work listing disease and procedure codes, plus the relevant standards.

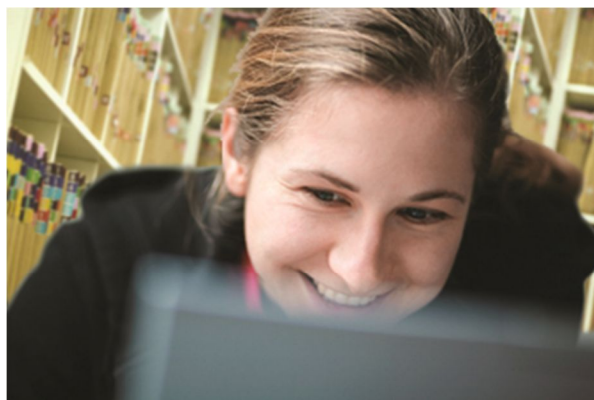
A weighty problem

The basic reference in Australia is the five-volume set of books detailing the ICD-10-AM, an authorised local modification of the World Health Organization's diseases classification system. The volumes also include the Australian Classification of Health Interventions (ACHI) which is used to report procedure codes and the Australian Coding Standards.

The books however, are undeniably awkward. The five volumes weigh in at a hefty five and half kilograms, making them a less than ideal choice for the many contract coders that travel around the country, providing coding services to facilities on a periodic or ad hoc basis.

Debbie Abbott, Director and owner of contract coding and auditing company, Resolutions (Int) Pty Limited, points out, "We used to lug the books around to client sites. We'd have our luggage to deal with on top of the books."

It all added to the cost of travel. In addition, we had to purchase sets of the books for each staff member at a cost of around \$500 per set of books."



The other defining difficulty of the books is the problem of dealing with errata. Whenever errata are issued, the changes need to be noted in the volumes. Abbott adds, "This is the biggest issue we have to deal with. We have to hand write changes in the book. It's a costly process and many of the errata involve change to codes that never use."

A digital solution for the digital age

An alternative reference, favoured by many in-house and contract coders, is the *TurboCoder*. Developed more than a decade ago and initially marketed under the name 'eBook', the *TurboCoder* is the foremost ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS digital reference tool for clinical coding in Australia, New Zealand and Ireland.

Essentially a searchable, easily navigated digital book that is automatically updated whenever new content or errata is available, *TurboCoder* includes fully hyperlinked disease and procedure codes, and coding standards. It uses the award winning eComPress® technology developed by Eurofield Information Solutions (EIS) - the same technology that underpins the internationally recognized ICD-10 reference work published by EIS on behalf of the World Health Organization.

Always available

For Abbott, whose company has been using *TurboCoder* for clients' right across Australia since the product's inception, software portability is extremely important. "If we have to travel, we still have the *TurboCoder* on our laptops. We don't have to carry the books around. Whether we're involved in coding, education or auditing, it doesn't matter where we are. We always know that the information is up to date and we can answer any question that comes our way," she notes.

Over the past ten years, Abbott says, her staff have never experienced any technical problems with the software-based work. "It's very easy to use and it's being enhanced all the time. I love the fact that it links up with coding matters and all other decisions. It's really good for auditing. It's reasonably priced, especially when we have to purchase around 10 to fifteen copies. We've never moved away from *TurboCoder* because it's simple and we really like the product."

Automatic updates

At Sydney-based health information management, medical records storage, retrieval and management business, The Coding Company, the intuitive nature of *TurboCoder* has led to it being used to help train new coding staff. The company also uses *TurboCoder* extensively in its contract coding and auditing work.

Jenny Gilder, the Coding Company's Director of Health Information Management Professional Services says, "When we prepare audit reports for hospitals that are going through accreditation we need to compare and review coded data, and make sure that there are performance improvements. We usually use the reference tools that the client has, but we also always take the laptop with *TurboCoder*." That way, she explains, even if no computer is available at the facility, or if the hospital network goes down, the contractors remain productive. "The most important thing as a contractor is to keep coding," she adds.

Gilder agrees with both Abbott and Matthews that errata can be a big problem with the printed volumes. "If there is a huge errata, nobody writes it up and when this happens, accuracy and coding are compromised."

TurboCoder avoids this issue because the software automatically downloads and incorporates any changes directly into the text. "When we go through major changes such as occurred this year with diabetes, the downloads are ideal. There is no other alternative to this. *TurboCoder* is the only reference that provides it," Gilder asserts.

Faster coding

Another long-term user of *TurboCoder* is Matthews Health Coding Solutions Pty Ltd. This ten-person contract coding business initially

began using *TurboCoder* more than a decade ago because it offered an inexpensive, portable solution. However, founder Louise Matthews soon found the solution contained many other attractions.

"I started using *TurboCoder* in day hospitals primarily because generally, we find ourselves having to share an office. Frequently we'll go in on the day the office manager or practice manager isn't there. From a space point of view, we don't have room to set up five books on the desk."

Since then Matthews has shifted all of her clients and staff onto *TurboCoder*. The clients appreciate the reduction in cost for the reference work and her work has become much faster.

"I do look at books occasionally but our primary focus is to get the coding done as efficiently as we possibly can so that client costs are kept down. I find *TurboCoder* is around 90 per cent quicker than using an index," Matthews explains.

The company's attention to coding accuracy, efficiency and cost effectiveness appears to be paying off. In late 2011, Matthews Health Coding Solutions Pty Ltd branched out with a new offering of a remote coding service for regional and day hospitals. Matthews' staff simply log on to the client's servers remotely and access the scanned clinical records. Coding is then carried out using *TurboCoder* which is installed on computers in the Matthews' office. "The cost saving from the hospital perspective is massive. They don't have to pay travel or ancillary costs for coders," she notes.

A future in education?

While *TurboCoder* has established itself as the reference manual of choice for many professional coders across Australia, New Zealand and Ireland, some are hopeful that in the future, it will also become part of curriculum for coding students.

"In this day and age, the courses should be written to suit the *TurboCoder* because the students themselves all have laptops and their assignments have to be typed. Why do we insist they refer to the books? *TurboCoder* has the standards and everything that we need," Gilder concludes.

Feedback

The US Health Information Management and Coding publication, *BC Advantage*, recently reviewed *TurboCoder* in its November/December issue. In reviewing *TurboCoder*, they discovered what Australian Coders have known for years about eComPress and clinical coding. Following is an extract from that review:

Product review: *TurboCoder*

TurboCoder is a set of digital ICD coding books that runs on Windows PCs and networks. They work as applications with their own built-in viewer, search and annotation functionality, and integrate with your files that you are working with and can interface with just a few clicks. This makes ICD coding seamless.

One of the highlights is that there is no more need to stop and pull books from shelves or open up another screen and log in somewhere. I loved the fact that I could simply highlight and drag and drop a word onto the Drag-on on your Desktop from outside the publication, or use the Search box with simple terms and it would begin to search for the code! It's fast and extremely easy-to-use.

This product is ideal for practices that are dependent on MRA scores and for various practices

(think surgical) that code directly from operative notes. It is fantastic if you are doing the kind of work that needs a lot of ICD coding. A key feature to note is that any errata and/or addendums are easily updated because this is online – so no more paper everywhere on your desk!

For a practice that needs high MRA scores or any coder that does a lot of coding – especially from reports – this is a must have. This is a great time saver and awesome application that frees up space on your desk (think no more books!) and helps code efficiently and easily.

Check out the four-minute demo on their website at www.turbocoder.com.au. There's no need to register so head on over and see how *TurboCoder* can work for you!

We welcome all feedback and suggestions on *TurboCoder*. Many of the functions and features currently used in this edition have been developed through end user feedback over the last twelve years. Our aim is to facilitate fast, accurate coding. Your suggestions for 'how to' tips in this newsletter are also welcome.

To make a comment visit
www.ecompress.com/feedback1.html

Please forward this newsletter to your coding colleagues who may find this information useful in their work. They can also register with EIS to receive their own email version at
www.TurboCoder.com.au

TurboCoder™

ICD-10-AM/ACHI/ACS

Eighth Edition

Coming Soon!

TurboCoder Eighth Edition will be available in 2013 featuring the new improved eComPress Pre-emptive Search Help (PSH) and Lead Term Search.

TurboCoder will retain the eComPress format that you currently know and love. Bookmark the TurboCoder webpage now to keep up-to-date with purchase details and release date:
www.TurboCoder.com.au

What's on?

NCCH – ABF/Casemix Symposium & Putting a Price on Health (Free Lecture) <i>http://sydney.edu.au/health_sciences/ncch/abf-casemix-symposium/about.shtml</i>	Sydney, NSW	30 November 2012
6th Australasian Workshop on Health Informatics and Knowledge Management (HIKM) <i>http://sim.unisa.edu.au/hikm/</i>	Adelaide, SA	29 January – 1 February 2013
3rd Annual Australian Health Informatics Summer School <i>http://www.uws.edu.au/scem/school_of_computing_engineering_and_mathematics/events_and_seminars/health_informatics_summer_school</i>	Sydney, NSW	4–8 February 2013
4th Annual Clinical Documentation Coding & Analysis Conference <i>www.iir.com.au/coding2013</i>	Melbourne, VIC	18–19 February 2013
CHIK Health-e-Nation <i>http://www.health-e-nation.com.au/</i>	Melbourne, VIC	19–21 March 2013
HISA BIG DATA Conference <i>http://www.hisa.org.au/bigdata2013</i>	Melbourne, VIC	18–19 April 2013
IFHIMA 17th Congress and General Assembly <i>http://www.ifhima.org/</i>	Montreal, Canada	13–15 May 2013
Activity Based Funding Conference 2013 <i>http://www.abfconference2013.com/index.html</i>	Sydney, NSW	13–16 May 2013



The team at EIS
wish you a
Happy Christmas
and all the
best for
the New Year!

TurboCoderTM