

# THE SOCIETY OF THORACIC SURGEONS

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February 27, 2018

Ms. Donna Pickett  
Co-Chair, ICD-10-CM Coordination and Maintenance Committee  
National Center for Health Statistics  
3311 Toledo Road  
Hyattsville, MD 20782

Ms. Pickett:

On behalf of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS), I write to provide support of the submission from the American Thoracic Society (ATS) requesting that the ICD-10 CM Coordination and Maintenance Committee consider the development of new ICD-10 CM codes to capture patient use of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) at its March 2018 meeting. Founded in 1964, The Society of Thoracic Surgeons is a not-for-profit organization representing more than 7,400 surgeons, researchers, and allied health care professionals worldwide who are dedicated to ensuring the best possible outcomes for surgeries of the heart, lung, and esophagus, as well as other surgical procedures within the chest. The mission of the Society is to enhance the ability of cardiothoracic surgeons to provide the highest quality patient care through education, research, and advocacy.

The ATS proposal provides a comprehensive summary of the current use of ENDS devices and the significant challenges to health care providers, researchers, patients and public health officials in reporting and data collection for these devices both domestically and internationally. STS agrees with the ATS that currently, there is no effective way for health care providers to specifically code for patients who use ENDS products and the lack of a unique code set for ENDS products poses a barrier to effective use of ICD-10 CM for health surveillance and research purposes. The ATS-proposed structure mirrors the current ICD-10 CM coding structure for nicotine and tobacco use allowing new codes for ENDS devices to be incorporated into the existing structure for the following areas of ICD-10 CM.

- Family of nicotine dependence codes (F17 Nicotine dependence)
- Family of tobacco and nicotine toxic effects codes (T65.2 Toxic effect of tobacco and nicotine)
- E-cigarette use during pregnancy (O99.33 Tobacco use disorder complicating pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium)
- Non Nicotine Dependent Use of ENDS (Z72.0 Problems related to lifestyle: tobacco use)
- Other areas such as Environmental and Occupational Exposure to E-cigarette Vapor

Incorporating ENDS into the ICD-10 CM in this way will provide physicians with the means to concurrently report patient tobacco and nicotine use in its multiple forms (e.g. cigarettes, cigars, chew tobacco) in addition to reporting ENDS products.

STS believes that these suggested codes will cover the major areas where ENDS device use data will be significant and provide beneficial data that can be used for health surveillance and research purposes. Thank you for your consideration of this important initiative. Should you have any questions, please contact Courtney Yohe, Director of Government Relations at [cyohe@sts.org](mailto:cyohe@sts.org) or 202-787-1222.

Sincerely,

Keith S. Naunheim, MD  
President