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Coding Your Care for Surveillance

Welcome to the Health Freedom Minute. This is Twila Brase, president of Citizens’ Council for Health Freedom.

All doctors use government-issued codes for billing purposes. These codes are called ICD-9 codes. These codes are the 9th revision of the International Classification of Disease system. But two years from now hospitals and doctors must begin using ICD-10 codes – the 10th revision.

Why should you care? Because today there are only 16,000 codes in the coding system. The new revision has 155,000 codes. That’s 139,000 more codes than today. These codes will enable the recording of much more specific data on patients. If the national health information network is not stopped, these codes will also facilitate detailed government health surveillance on all citizens.

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