

CHANGING THE SYSTEM OF CARE

In the United States, the ICD (International Classification of Diseases) diagnostic system is monitored and updated by the National Center for Health Statistics through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, with the World Health Organization (WHO) being the authoritative source for this guide. In 2019, pediatric feeding disorder was defined in a consensus paper published by the Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition. In 2021, the United States ICD-10-CM Coordination and Maintenance Committee created an update to be effective October 1st, 2021 that included an ICD-10 code for pediatric feeding disorder.



[Consensus Paper](#)

| SYSTEM CHALLENGE | IDENTITY IMPACT |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no universally accepted term or diagnostic criteria for pediatric feeding disorders • The International Classification of Diseases (ICD) code for feeding difficulties (R63.3 in the ICD 10) is non-specific and poorly defined • Feeding disorders are often treated as a symptom rather than a stand-alone condition • PFD requires comprehensive assessment and treatment, but the lack of a universally accepted definition has hindered collaborative care • Previous diagnostic paradigms define PFD through the lens of a single discipline, which fails to characterize associated functional limitations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeding Matters facilitated the consensus project and gathered over 17 world thought leaders from various disciplines in the field of pediatric feeding disorders to determine a name, definition, and diagnostic criteria for pediatric feeding disorder • During the consensus conference, the group elected to use the framework of the World Health Organization (WHO) International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF) • This conceptual framework goes beyond disease-oriented or unilateral diagnostic paradigms • Adoption of PFD from all disciplines will establish a common definition and terminology to impact clinical practice, education, research, and advocacy |



Healthcare professionals are encouraged to utilize the diagnostic term, "pediatric feeding disorder" and related ICD-10 codes to promote the use of common, precise, terminology needed to advance clinical practice, research, and health-care policy for children with feeding difficulties.

Recent Advances

PFD Defined

In 2015, Feeding Matters began work to identify and define a universally accepted name and stand-alone diagnosis for pediatric feeding disorder. In March 2016, 17 various disciplines and some of the world's most renowned thought leaders in pediatric feeding struggles gathered to determine a name, definition, and diagnostic criteria. The result of this pivotal meeting was two years of collaborations and diligent work to write "Pediatric Feeding Disorder: Consensus Definition and Conceptual Framework." Published by the Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition in January 2019, the paper declares pediatric feeding disorder the unifying name and stand-alone diagnosis for the field.

ICD Code for PFD Diagnosis

The American Academy of Pediatrics partnered with Feeding Matters' lead authors and Feeding Matters past Medical Director, Dr. Phalen to present a proposal for pediatric feeding disorder to receive its own diagnostic ICD code in September 2019 and March 2020. By being present at both meetings, Feeding Matters ensured the patient voice was represented. Feeding Matters also worked

closely with professional associations and a coalition to publicly support the proposal in letters of support during the public commentary period for the ICD updates.

On August 20th, 2020, Dr. Phalen contacted Feeding Matters to share that the pediatric feeding disorder ICD code was approved and was to be included in the United States-ICD-10 in October 2021. In just 5 short years, Feeding Matters successfully served as the catalyst to the publication of the stand-alone definition and diagnosis of PFD – a condition so many before us have merely dismissed as a symptom of a different problem.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
- The American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.
- The National Coalition for Infant Health

Impact of an ICD Code

- Improved accuracy and consistency of coding for PFD
 - Better epidemiological tracking
 - Improved analysis of disease patterns and treatment outcomes
- Avenue to advance quality measurement efforts
 - Inclusion of necessary healthcare professionals in care provision
- Advancements in research
 - Prevalence and incidence measures
 - Identification, tracking, and characterization of the disorder
 - Development of new assessment and management/treatment approaches
- Improved reimbursement accuracy
 - Reduces fraud, waste, and abuse
- Advancement in early identification of pediatric feeding disorder and overall health outcomes

Future Initiatives

Now that PFD has been defined and an ICD code for pediatric feeding disorder has been approved, Feeding Matters will leverage the advocacy agenda to promote accurate and efficacious use of the PFD code. By working closely with healthcare professionals and insurance companies, strategies will be developed to promote appropriate use of diagnostic and treatment codes and prevent over-utilization and over-spending. The recognition of PFD and related judicial reimbursement practices are instrumental for improving health outcomes in children with PFD.

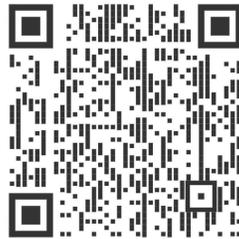
WHAT'S NEXT

Next steps in the Feeding Matters Advocacy Agenda

*PFD Awareness
inclusive insurance coverage
best practices for care*

Efforts will focus on:

- Adoption of the PFD framework and terminology by healthcare professionals from all disciplines
- Facilitation of interdisciplinary collaboration
- Promotion of educational curricula to train healthcare professionals
- Promotion of research investigating best practices
- Establishing partnerships with policymakers
- Advocating for PFD qualifying diagnosis for early intervention services under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- Stimulating changes to the ICD codes
- Stimulating changes to insurance coverage policies for improved reimbursement and coverage to promote cost-saving strategies of early intervention services



[Feeding Matters Advocacy Agenda](#)

References

1. *Goday PS, Huh SY, Silverman A, Lukens CT, Dodrill P, Cohen SS, Delaney AL, Feuling MB, Noel RJ, Gisel E, Kenzer A, Kessler DB, de Camargo OK, Browne J, Phalen JA. Pediatric feeding disorder: consensus definition and conceptual framework. JPGN 2019;68(1):124-129.

Resources

[PFD ICD-10 Toolkit](#)



[When to Refer Infographic](#)



[ICFQ 6 Question Screener](#)