



## ERIK'S CAUSE

*Kids like Erik are dying every week –  
YOU CAN HELP!*

*Help Stop the Choking Game*

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### ANNOUNCEMENT:

## ICD-10-CM ACTIVITY CODE FOR CHOKING GAME INJURIES! (rv 10-2020)

International Classification of Diseases (ICD) as its health care classification system, providing diagnostic codes to classify diseases, including nuanced classifications of a wide variety of signs, symptoms, ... and external causes of injury or disease. The current version is ICD-10. Its annual clinical modification (ICD-10-CM) was just released October 1, 2016, for Fiscal Year 2017.

There is now an activity code to classify injury from the Choking Game! The actual code is:

**Y93.85 Activity, choking game**

*(with the following language to further define the code)*

**Activity: blackout game**

**Activity: fainting game**

**Activity: pass out game**

This code can be found at:

<https://icdlist.com/icd-10/Y93.85>

While it will take time for this code to become known and used, it is an enormous achievement in that it (1) recognizes the choking game as a specified "activity" that children engage in, and (2) provides medical personnel a place to designate pass out activities as a cause for injury and begin to collect data related to these injuries.

The inclusion of this activity code is the result of the efforts of Patricia J. Russell, M.D. who proposed the code to the ICD-10-CM Committee in 2012. It was endorsed by a representative of the American Academy of Pediatrics and approved by the Committee. Implementation of the code was delayed due to delays of the overall transition from the ICD-9-CM to the roll-out of the ICD-10-CM. Kudos to Dr. Russell for her tremendous success!

Dr. Russell would like to approach the World Health Organization to ask that they adopt the choking game code to be used in coding unintentional strangulation deaths due to pass out activities. To that end, she is inviting medical professionals across the globe to join her as a collaborative effort. Please email Dr. Russell directly at [colinsmomtrish@yahoo.com](mailto:colinsmomtrish@yahoo.com). Please also visit Dr. Russell's website, <http://rememberingcolin.com>, for more information about the choking game.

Dr. Russell is a primary care and urgent care physician in Tacoma, Washington and first learned of the choking game when her son, Colin, died from it in the Fall of 2005. She is also a Community Consultant for Erik's Cause. Among her many accomplishments, Dr. Russell is responsible for bringing this issue to the attention of the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) and is a co-author of their subsequent formal study of this topic in 2008. Additional information about Dr. Russell, including her publications, can be found at <http://www.erikscause.org/experts>.

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