

ICD-10 Code Transition – October 1, 2015

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q: What is the main purpose for the change from ICD-9 to ICD-10 coding?

A: To improve clinical communication. ICD-10 allows for capture of data regarding signs, symptoms, risk factors and comorbidities to better describe the clinical issue overall. Also, it will enable the United States to exchange information across international borders. The World Health Organization uses the ICD code set to track mortality and comorbidities on a global level. ICD-10 will improve national healthcare initiatives such as Meaningful Use, value-based purchasing, payment reform and quality reporting.

Q: How will the ICD-10 be different than ICD-9?

A: The volume of codes will increase from almost 14,000 ICD-9 codes, to over 69,000 ICD-10 codes. ICD-10 codes are all alphanumeric, typically starting with a letter, with up to 7 digits.

Q: Who is affected by the transition to ICD-10?

A: Every entity covered by HIPAA must transition to the ICD-10 system, not just those who submit Medicare and Medicaid.

Q: What if a covered entity does not transition to ICD-10?

A: Claims that do not contain ICD-10 diagnosis and inpatient procedure codes for services provided on or after October 1, 2015 cannot be processed and will not be HIPAA compliant.

Q: Is there a grace period when ICD-9 codes can be used after October 1, 2015?

A: No. Per the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), there will not be a grace period. As of Thursday October 1, 2015, it will be required that the ICD-10 code set is used, and the ICD-9 diagnosis and procedure codes can no longer be used for services provided.

Q: Will ICD-10 codes used before October 1, 2015 be accepted?

A: No. Claims for dates of service on or before September 30, 2015 must utilize the ICD-9 code set, even if it is billed after October 1, 2015.

Q: Where can I find a list of ICD-10 codes?

A: The ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS code sets, as well as the official ICD-10-CM guidelines, are available free of charge on the "**2015 ICD-10-CM and GEMs**" and "**2015 ICD-10-PCS and GEMs**" pages of the CMS ICD-10 website.

Q: How can EMR systems, such as Practice Fusion, help?

A: Most EMR systems will provide assistance to users with automated ICD-9 to ICD-10 mapping, search by diagnosis key words, as well as many other resources. Visit your EMR website for more information, or ask your Laboratory Representative.

Q: How can West Pacific Laboratory and VantagePoint Laboratory Partners help in the process?

A: We can provide a reference guide of commonly ordered ICD-10 codes and assistance with other resources. Please reach out to your Laboratory Representative for questions or concerns.

Q: What some other resources can I use?

A: ICD-9 to ICD-10 conversion sites, such as www.icd10data.com
The CMS website at www.CMS.gov

For additional support please contact your Account Representative or call Client Services at 877.537.LABS(5227).