

## **ICD-10 FAQs**

### **What is ICD-10?**

ICD-10 is a diagnostic coding system implemented by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1993 to replace ICD-9, which was developed by WHO in the 1970s. The U.S. clinical modification of ICD-10, ICD-10-CM, is the code set scheduled to replace ICD-9-CM, our current U.S. diagnostic code set. This change also includes ICD-10-PCS, for the “procedural coding system,” which will also be adopted in the United States and will replace Volume 3 of ICD-9-CM as the inpatient procedural coding system for hospitals.

### **Will ICD-10 affect the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes for physician services?**

No. Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) will remain the coding system for physician services.

### **Why is the United States moving to ICD-10-CM?**

ICD-9-CM with only 5 positions is out of space for meeting current and future requirements. Because the classification is organized scientifically, each three-digit category only holds up to 10 subcategories, and most numbers in the categories have been assigned diagnoses. As medical science continues to make new discoveries, there are no number categories available to assign the associated diagnoses.

In addition, more detailed coding is available in ICD-10-CM to enable better analysis of disease patterns and treatment outcomes. This improvement can aid in advancing U.S. medical care, as well as streamlining claims submissions by making the initial claim much easier for payers to understand the services provided.

### **When will ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS be implemented?**

The implementation date for all ICD-10 codes is October 1, 2014.

### **How will codes be different with ICD-10?**

While the current ICD-9 codes are mostly numeric, the new ICD-10 codes will all be alphanumeric, beginning with a letter and then including a mix of numbers and letters. ICD-9 lacks the space to expand and keep up with medical advances in diagnosis and treatment. ICD-10, with 7 possible digits, allows for greater specificity. Claims will contain better documentation for payment decisions and for research in disease patterns and treatment outcomes.

### **How will ICD-10 affect my office?**

Where ever you are using ICD-9 codes, you will have an impact from the ICD-10 mandate. As you go through your day make a conscious effort to note everywhere you use ICD-9 or see an ICD-9 code. Each of these areas will have an impact. Some examples are your practice management system, lab order forms, encounter forms, clinical documentation, superbills, and your coders’ skill set.

### **Will I be able to submit ICD-9 and ICD-10 on a single claim?**

Only one code set will be accepted on a single claim. For outpatient claims with a date of service September 30, 2014 and before, use code set ICD-9. For outpatient claims with a date of service of October 1, 2014 and forward use ICD-10. You will be required to split your claims by date to avoid mixing code versions.

**Will there be changes to the 1500 CMS form to accommodate ICD-10?**

The National Uniform Claim Committee is responsible for revisions to the 02/12 CMS 1500. The new form to accommodate ICD-10 has received final approval from CMS. You can view the new form on the [www.NUCC.org](http://www.NUCC.org) website. On January 6, 2014, Medicare will begin receiving and processing paper claims on the revised 1500 form. January 6 through March 31 will be a dual time period. On April 1, 2014, Medicare will receive and process paper claims only on the revised CMS form.

**What can I do to prepare for ICD-10-CM?**

Start early. Physicians, coders and other health care personnel will need significant education and training in order to complete full implementation of this major code change. It's much more than an annual code update. The ICD-10 set will include changing alphanumeric codes and restructuring chapters or categories of the current ICD book.

Prepare for more detailed clinical documentation. Along with category changes, the ICD-10 set may expand the detailing of conditions to accommodate more specific varieties of illness and injury.

Talk to colleagues and business partners who use ICD codes. Consult your specialty society for information on new coding requirements for your practice.

How can I find help for ICD-10 related to my medical specialty?

Consult your provider's professional or specialty organizations and their websites for specific ICD-10 code change information.

Medtech recommends you purchase a "Crosswalk" for your specialty.

This will help you convert your top 50 ICD-9 Codes to ICD-10 Codes.

Website: <http://www.aapc.com/ICD-10/crosswalks/index.aspx>

**I've heard of the GEMs. What are they?**

The GEMs are "the general equivalence mappings." This is a free translation tool on the CMS government website. The CMS GEMs allows both forward mapping (ICD-9 to ICD-10) and backwards mapping (ICD-10 to ICD-9).

**Do all payers have to be ready for ICD-10 on October 1, 2014?**

All covered entities—payers, health plans, and providers— must use ICD-10 as of October 1, 2014.

Exceptions are workman's compensation and property and casualty payers as they are not defined as covered entities under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). This will be determined on a state by state basis.

**What if a payer is not ready for ICD-10 on October 1, 2014?**

It is possible that a payer will not be ready for ICD-10 on October 1, 2014, and will continue to accept ICD-9 for a period of time. It will be very important that you are able to send the required code set, ICD-9 or ICD-10, based on the payer code set requirement.

**Will Medtech Provider Solutions be able to crosswalk my diagnosis codes from ICD-9 to ICD-10?**

We will not be able to crosswalk diagnosis codes from version ICD-9 to ICD-10. In many cases, there are multiple possible ICD-10 codes for a given ICD-9 code. Diagnosis codes are assigned according to clinical documentation and must be supported by details in the patient record.

**Where can I find the ICD-10 codes?**

Medtech will download this file into your system for you.

You can download a text file of all ICD-10 codes and descriptions from the CMS website: <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/2014-ICD-10-CM-and-GEMs-.html>. This site also offers information on how to use the code set files.

**Will Payers take ICD-10 early?**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has mandated that all HIPAA-covered entities will transition to the use of ICD-10 on October 1, 2014, and early or late transitions will not be allowed. We will not be able to process claims using ICD-10 until October 1, 2014.