



May 20, 2015

Dear Provider,

On July 31, 2014, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a rule establishing October 1, 2015, as the new compliance date for healthcare providers, health plans and healthcare clearinghouses to transition to ICD-10 code sets.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City (Blue KC) is committed to ensuring that all our systems, supporting business processes, policies and procedures successfully meet the implementation standards and deadlines without interruption to our day-to-day business practices.

For all claims with dates of service on or after October 1, 2015, Blue KC will only accept and adjudicate claims with the proper ICD-10 code sets. Claims with dates of service prior to October 1, 2015, must continue to be submitted with the proper ICD-9 code sets.

Blue KC will be required to reject your electronic claim for noncompliance or return your paper claim if it does not contain the appropriate code set for the specific date of service.

We are recommending that all providers complete each of the following to ensure readiness and a successful ICD-10 implementation within their practice or organization.

- Assessment, training and/or certification of staff: Blue KC recommends the local Kansas City Chapter of the American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC – KC) as a reference for ICD -10 educational opportunities and resources. Please go to www.AAPCKC.com for further information.
- Review all internal workflows that currently utilize ICD-9 CM and/or ICD-9 PCS code sets to ensure your workflows will accommodate the new ICD-10 CM and/or ICD-10 PCS code sets that could impact your billing processes.
- Perform analysis of your software vendors that provide Practice Management Systems (PMS), Health Information Systems (HIS), Electronic Medical Records (EMR) and your EDI clearinghouse:
 - How will my software vendor and/or clearinghouse accommodate ICD-10?
 - Will I get a new system release or upgrade and when is it available?
 - What type of testing will be done?
 - What format am I sending to my clearinghouse and will it accommodate all the new ICD-10 code sets?



- Stay informed and become engaged with industry and local professional organizations and educational resources.
- Blue KC still has some ICD-10 testing opportunities available. If you would like to perform end-to-end testing with Blue KC, please first contact your PMS or HIS software vendors and / or EDI clearinghouse to verify they can provide you with this type of testing capability. Next, please contact your provider relations representative no later than June 30, 2015, for consideration to participate in our end-to-end testing. When you contact your provider relations representative you must include the following information:
 - Provider name and billing NPI
 - Provider contact information (email and phone)
 - Name and contact information of PMS / HIS vendor
 - Name and contact information of EDI Clearinghouse

Below are links to key CMS information to help prepare your office for ICD-10:

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) ICD-10 information portal:
<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/Index.html>
- CMS Official Guidelines on Coding and Reporting:
www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/Downloads/icd10cm-guidelines-2015.pdf
- CMS Guidelines for general claim submission and claims that span the ICD-10 implementation date:
www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/SE1408.pdf

Finally, it is important that everyone within your practice or organization has a complete understanding of their role and responsibility to ensure a successful implementation of the new ICD-10 code sets.

If you have questions related to ICD-10, please contact your provider relations representative.

Sincerely,



Randy Meyer
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas City
Department Vice President
Contracting & Network Development

