ICD-10

The information contained within this section is designed to serve as a resource to help you prepare for the U.S. healthcare industry’s change from ICD-9 to ICD-10 for medical diagnosis and inpatient procedure coding. Blue KC encourages you to check out all of the information contained within this section as well as the helpful web links.

The International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) Clinical Modifications (CM) and ICD-10 Procedure Coding Structure (PCS) are new medical code sets under HIPAA and represent a fundamental overhaul to the current ICD-9 coding system. A federal mandate requires all HIPAA covered entities to adopt ICD-10 by the compliance date of October 1, 2014.

ICD-10 incorporates greater specificity of codes, more clinical information contained in the codes, and updated terminology. The use of ICD-10 will improve the ability to measure health care services, enhance the ability to monitor the population's health, provide better overall data, and decrease the need for supporting documentation needed when submitting claims. These FAQs provide an overview of the transition to ICD-10 and point to resources for more information.

What should providers be doing to prepare for the transition to ICD-10?

Providers can begin to prepare by taking the following steps NOW:

- Talk with your billing service, clearinghouse, or practice management software vendor NOW
- Identify ICD-9 (and presumably ICD-10) touch points in your systems and business processes
- Identify needs and resources, such as training, printing, etc.

An ICD-10 transition plan should take into account specific practice or organization needs, vendor readiness, and staff knowledge and training.

Providers should check with their billing service, clearinghouse, or practice management software vendor about their readiness plans.

Providers who handle billing and software development internally should plan for medical records/coding, clinical, IT, and finance staff to coordinate on ICD-10 transition efforts.

Work together to make sure you'll have what you need to be ready. A successful transition to ICD-10 will be vital to maintaining business operations.
CMS has resources to help providers prepare for a smooth transition to ICD-10. Visit www.cms.gov/ICD10 to find out more. CMS will continue to add new tools and information to the site through the course of the transition.

**Why should I start preparing now for the ICD-10 transition when it doesn’t happen until Oct. 1, 2014?**

The transition to ICD-10 is a major undertaking for providers, payers, and vendors. Providers need to devote staff time and financial resources to transition activities. The transition will go much more smoothly for organizations that plan ahead and prepare now. A successful transition to ICD-10 will be vital to ensuring uninterrupted operations.

**What type of training will providers and staff need for ICD-10 transition?**

Training should take place in late 2013 or early 2014 for most staff. Training needs will vary for different organizations. For example, physician practice coders will need to learn ICD-10 diagnosis coding only, while hospital coders will need to learn both ICD-10 diagnosis and ICD-10 inpatient procedure coding.

ICD-10 resources and training materials will be available through CMS, professional associations and societies, and software/system vendors. Visit www.cms.gov/ICD10 regularly throughout the course of the transition to access the latest information on training opportunities.

**What should software vendors, clearinghouses, and third party billing services be doing to prepare for the transition to ICD-10?**

Software vendors, clearinghouses, and third-party billing services should talk to their customers NOW to get them ready so their claims will continue to be paid. Take a proactive role in assisting in the transition. Ask customers about their needs and establish a comprehensive approach that will deliver compatible products well ahead of the key transition deadlines. Develop testing guidelines and schedules. Products and services will be obsolete if steps are not taken now to get ready.

**What happens if I do not switch to ICD-10?**

Claims for all services and hospital inpatient procedures provided on or after October 1, 2014, must use ICD-10 diagnosis and inpatient procedure codes. (This does not apply to CPT coding for outpatient procedures.) Claims that do not use ICD-10 diagnosis and inpatient procedure codes cannot be processed. It is important to note, however, that claims for services and inpatient procedures
provided before October 1, 2014, must use ICD-9 codes even if they are submitted after the compliance date.

If I transition early to ICD-10, will Blue KC be able to process my claims?

No. Blue KC will not be able to process claims using ICD-10 until the October 1, 2014, compliance date. However, you should plan to start ICD-10 testing with BCBSKS beginning in April 1, 2014.

Claims received with dates of service on or beyond October 1, 2014, must be submitted with ICD-10 codes and claims submitted with dates of service prior to October 1, 2014, must be submitted with ICD-9 codes.

Who is affected by the transition to ICD-10? If I don't deal with Medicare claims, will I have to transition?

Everyone covered by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) must transition to ICD-10 on October 1, 2014, including providers and payers who do not deal with Medicare claims.

When will Blue KC be ready to accept test transaction from our system?

Currently Blue KC is planning partner provider testing from January 2014 – July 2014. Requests to test earlier will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Please explain how you will accommodate both ICD-9 and ICD-10 as we work with claims for services provided before and after the deadline and non-covered entities.

We will accommodate both ICD-9 and ICD-10 as we will have native coding for both in our claims systems starting October 1, 2014.

Will Blue KC allow both ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes on the same claim?

No. Use ICD-9 codes for DOS and date of discharge prior to October 1, 2014, and use ICD-10 codes for DOS and date of discharge after October 1, 2014.