

**01**

BEGINNER

» ICD-10 Fact Sheet:

# **BASICS FOR SMALL AND RURAL PRACTICES**



**ICD-10 DEADLINE**  
**OCT 1, 2015**

**O**n October 1, 2015, the health care industry will transition from ICD-9 to ICD-10 codes for diagnoses and inpatient procedures. This means everyone covered by HIPAA must use ICD-10 codes for health care services provided on or after October 1, 2015.



01

BEGINNER

**The following is a list of important questions to address now to help you prepare your practice for ICD-10.**

**1 Will you be able to submit claims?**

If you use an electronic system for any or all payers, you need to know if it will be able to submit ICD-10 codes. If your system uses Version 5010 for electronic transactions, you should be able to submit ICD-10 codes. However, check with your practice management system or software vendor to make sure.

**2 Will you be able to complete medical records?**

If you use any type of electronic health record (EHR) system in your office, you need to know if it will capture ICD-10 codes. Look at how you enter ICD-9 codes (e.g., do you type them in or select from a program) and talk to your EHR vendor about your system's capabilities for ICD-10.

**3 How will you code your claims under ICD-10?**

If you want to keep coding the same way you are now, and you only use books to code, purchase an ICD-10 code book in early 2015. If your coder—or whoever is responsible for coding in your practice—cannot identify codes accurately using the code book or 'look-up' functionality in your software, explore their ICD-10 training options and determine if formal training is necessary. Then, take a look at the codes most commonly used in your office and practice coding over the summer in 2015.

**4 Where do you use ICD-9 codes? Is there anywhere you use ICD-9 codes other than claims submission or your EHR?**

Talk to your colleagues and keep track of your own activities for a couple of weeks. Write down or use a sticky note to mark everywhere you see an ICD-9 code as you do your job. If the code is on paper, you will need new forms (e.g., patient encounter form). If you see the code on your computer, check with your EHR or practice management system vendor to see if your system will accept ICD-10 codes.

**5 Are there ways to make coding more efficient?**

For example, develop a list of your most commonly used ICD-10 codes, or invest in an inexpensive software program that helps small practices with coding. Also, think about ways to make sure the new coding does not delay payments. Look at your most common non-visit services—do any sometimes trigger reviews or denials related to medical necessity? It is important to understand how to code these services correctly under ICD-10.

Talk to your EHR vendor about your system's capabilities for ICD-10.

## ICD-10 Resources

Visit the [CMS ICD-10 website](#) for information and resources on ICD-10. The [Provider Resources](#) section of the website has helpful fact sheets, checklists, timelines, and other resources to help practices transition to ICD-10.

Also, be sure to check out ICD-10 resources and trainings available from your payers, vendors, and professional associations such as the [American Academy of Professional Coders](#) and the [American Health Information Management Association](#).

## Background

### About ICD-10

**ICD-10 CM/PCS** (International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition, Clinical Modification/ Procedure Coding System) consists of two parts:

**ICD-10-CM** (diagnosis coding) was developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for use in all U.S. health care settings. Diagnosis coding under ICD-10-CM uses 3 to 7 digits instead of the 3 to 5 digits used with ICD-9-CM, but the format of the code sets is similar.

**ICD-10-PCS** (inpatient procedure coding) was developed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for use in U.S. inpatient hospital settings only. ICD-10-PCS uses 7 alphanumeric digits instead of the 3 or 4 numeric digits used under ICD-9-CM procedure coding. Coding under ICD-10-PCS is much more specific and substantially different from ICD-9-CM procedure coding.

The transition to ICD-10-CM/PCS does not affect Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes, which will continue to be used for outpatient services.



Visit [www.cms.gov/ICD10](http://www.cms.gov/ICD10) for ICD-10 resources from CMS.