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Dates of Service: Is It ICD-9 or ICD-10?

With the October 1, 2014, ICD-10 deadline approaching, you may be wondering how you will code a claim that you are submitting in October 2014 for a service that your practice provided in September 2014.

Even if you submit your claim on or after the ICD-10 deadline, if the date of service was before the October 1, 2014, deadline, you will use ICD-9 to code the diagnosis.

For dates of service on or after the October 1, 2014, deadline, you will use ICD-10. You may not be able to use ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes on the same claim based on your payers' instructions. This may mean splitting services that would typically be captured on one claim into two claims: one claim with ICD-9 diagnosis codes for services provided before October 1, 2014, and another claim with ICD-10 diagnosis codes for services provided on or after October 1, 2014.

Some trading partners may request that ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes be submitted on the same claim when dates of service span the compliance date. Trading partner agreements will determine the need for split claims.

Here's an example of a split claim:
A patient has an appointment on September 27, 2014, and is diagnosed with bronchitis. He returns for a follow-up appointment on October 3, 2014. In this case, a practice will submit a claim with an ICD-9 diagnosis code for the first visit and another claim with an ICD-10 diagnosis code for the follow-up visit.

Make sure that your systems, third-party vendors, billing services, and clearinghouses can handle both ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes depending on the dates of service in the months following October 1, 2014.

Please note that future ICD-10 Email Updates will explore how Medicare will handle dates of service for inpatient settings (e.g., a hospital inpatient stay that

begins before the transition date and ends after the transition date will be coded on a single claim with ICD-10). Stay tuned for details.

Keep Up to Date on ICD-10
Visit the CMS ICD-10 website for the latest news and resources and the ICD-10 continuing medical education modules developed by CMS in partnership with Medscape to help you prepare for the **October 1, 2014**, deadline.