



ICD-10

Official CMS Industry Resources for the ICD-10 Transition
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ICD-10. It's closer than it seems.

News Updates | February 21, 2013

Plan to Mitigate Risk for a Smooth ICD-10 Transition

To make your transition to ICD-10 smooth, consider following these steps:

- **Establish a transition plan.** Outline the steps your practice intends to follow to comply with ICD-10 requirements. Establish milestones to keep your practice on track. Share your transition plan with your EHR and practice management system vendors and billing services. Talk to them about how you can set up testing before the deadline.
- **Communicate with your vendors regularly; encourage them to take action now to avoid reimbursement delays.** Talk to your vendors about making sure your practice management systems will be able to handle ICD-10 transactions. Ask them about their schedule for training your practice's staff on the system changes. Make sure you and your vendors allow ample time for testing ICD-10 systems.
- **Identify everywhere that your practice uses ICD-9.** Any function where you currently use ICD-9 will be affected by the transition to ICD-10. By taking a look at where you use ICD-9, you will see where you need to be prepared to use ICD-10 codes.
- **Plan for staff training.** Decide who needs training, what type of training they need, and when they need it. Anyone who will test ICD-10 systems before the transition will need training in advance so they can perform meaningful testing. Others who use ICD codes can be trained 6 to 9 months before the October 1, 2014, transition.
- **Network with peers.** Talking with your peers in other practices can help you to identify best practices and opportunities for sharing resources.
- **Set up an emergency fund to cover potential cash-flow disruptions from claims processing.** If you think you might have a serious disruption in

getting claims processed after the transition, having a cash reserve on hand could be helpful.

- **Process ICD-9 transactions before the deadline.** Get claims with ICD-9 transactions processed before the deadline to avoid facing a major backlog after the October 1, 2014, ICD-10 transition.

Keep Up to Date on ICD-10

Visit the CMS [ICD-10 website](#) for the latest news and resources to help you prepare for the **October 1, 2014**, deadline.

For practical transition tips:

- Read [recent ICD-10 email update messages](#)
- Access [the ICD-10 continuing medical education modules](#) developed by CMS in partnership with Medscape



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