ICD-10.
It's closer than it seems.

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Planning Your ICD-10 Transition Activities for 2013

The year 2013 brings two crucial ICD-10 transition milestones for providers:

- **April 1, 2013:** Testing ICD-10 with colleagues/staff within your practice
- **October 1, 2013:** Testing ICD-10 with business trading partners like payers, clearinghouses, and billing services

Review your ICD-10 timeline and make sure you are on track to meet these milestones.

Jump-starting Your Transition
To prepare for testing, be sure you have completed the following activities:

- Review ICD-10 resources from CMS, trade associations, payers, and vendors
- Inform your staff/colleagues of upcoming changes
- Create an ICD-10 project management team
- Identify how ICD-10 will affect your practice
- Develop and complete an ICD-10 project plan for your organization
  - Identify each task, including deadline and who is responsible
  - Develop plan for communicating with staff and business partners about ICD-10
- Estimate and secure budget (potential costs include updates to practice management systems, new coding guides and superbills, staff training)
- Ask your payers and vendors—software/systems, clearinghouses, billing services—about ICD-10 readiness; review contracts/proposals
  - Ask about systems changes, a timeline, costs, and testing plans
  - Ask when they will start testing, how long they will need, and how you and other clients will be involved
  - Select/retain vendor(s)
- Review changes in clinical documentation requirements and educate staff by reviewing frequently used ICD-9 codes and new ICD-10 codes

Depending on your organization, some tasks above may be performed on a compressed timeline or performed at the same time as other tasks.

Testing

- **April 1, 2013:** Start testing ICD-10 codes and systems with your practice's coding, billing, and clinical staff
    - Use ICD-10 codes for diagnoses your practice sees most often
    - Test data and reports for accuracy
- **October 1, 2013:** Begin testing transactions from start to finish using ICD-10 codes with payers and other business partners

Expect to continue testing transactions and fine-tuning your transition up until the ICD-10 compliance date of **October 1, 2014.**

Keep Up to Date on ICD-10
Visit the CMS [ICD-10 website](#) for the latest news and resources to help you prepare.

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