ICD-10 Frequently Asked Questions

What is ICD-10?
ICD-10 is the International Classification of Diseases, Volume 10. On January 16, 2009, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) released the final rule mandating that all parties covered by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) must implement the ICD-10 diagnosis and ICD-10 procedure code sets for medical coding. This mandate applies to all health plans and all medical transactions that use ICD codes. The mandate is effective for dates of service or dates of discharge occurring on or after October 1, 2014.

ICD-10 codes are more specific and numerous than ICD-9 codes. The new codes will have a profound effect on almost every aspect of the health care industry.

Preparation for the change to ICD-10 codes will include:

- Potential updated software installation.
- Staff training.
- Changes to business operations and workflows.
- Internal and external testing.
- Reprinting of manuals and other materials.

Will all other codes end with the ICD-10 implementation?
- This implementation will not impact the use of other codes (CPT-4, HCPCS, Revenue Codes, Mental Health DSM IV, etc.).
- You can still use ICD-9 codes for dates of service or dates of discharge before October 1, 2014.
- The mandate requires ICD-10 diagnosis and procedure codes on all inpatient claims with discharge dates on or after October 1, 2014.
- The mandate requires ICD-10 diagnosis codes on all professional and outpatient claims with dates of service on or after October 1, 2014.

Are state and federal health plans (Medicaid, Medicare, FEP, TRICARE) exempt from the ICD-10 mandate?
All health plans must comply with the new regulations.

What is BlueCross® BlueShield® of South Carolina’s ICD-10 implementation plan?
BlueCross is following health care industry implementation guidelines. This includes the recommended schedules for providers, vendors and payers. BlueCross will be able to accept ICD-10 codes by the October 1, 2014, deadline as mandated by DHHS.

Will I be able to test with BlueCross before the implementation date?
BlueCross has not yet determined a testing plan for providers.
BlueCross will be engaging selected providers for ICD-10 testing as we move closer to the implementation date.

**Will my BlueCross contract be affected by the changes to ICD-10 codes?**
If you are a contracted BlueCross provider, the changes will affect your contract.

BlueCross has impacts annually for the DRG (Diagnosis Related Group) grouper changes, and this is not anything new for us to handle. The new ICD-10 code sets will make it slightly more complicated, but the modeling and pay schedule reviews/updates are already a routine part of our annual process.

**Will new BlueCross Trading Partner Agreements be required?**
BlueCross will not require new Trading Partner Agreements.

**Can I submit claims coded in ICD-10 before October 1, 2014?**
Like any other code set, ICD-10 codes are not valid before their effective date.

**Can I use ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes on the same claim?**
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has stated that you cannot submit ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes on the same paper or electronic claim.

**Will there be changes to the CMS-1500 (“HCFA”) paper claim form?**
The National Uniform Claim Committee (NUCC) has decided to change the CMS-1500 paper claim form to accommodate the use of ICD-10 diagnosis codes. You can find information at [www.nucc.org](http://www.nucc.org).

**Will there be changes to the UB-04 paper claim form?**
The National Uniform Billing Committee (NUBC) has changed the 2012 UB-04 (v. 6) paper claim form to accommodate the use of ICD-10 codes. You can find information at [www.nubc.org](http://www.nubc.org).

**Which electronic transactions will be affected by ICD-10?**
ICD-10 will affect these electronic transactions:

- 837 I Institutional Medical Claim
- 837 P Professional Medical Claim
- 270/271 Eligibility Request/Response
- 278 Request for Review and Response

**Will BlueCross provide ICD-10 training for providers?**
BlueCross does not conduct coding training sessions.

**Where can I get the ICD-10 codes?**
CMS provides 2012 updates to:

- ICD-10 CM (diagnosis)
- ICD-10 PCS (procedure)
• General Equivalence Mappings (GEMs)
• Reimbursement Mappings

You can find these, at no charge, on the CMS website at [www.cms.gov/ICD10](http://www.cms.gov/ICD10).

**Helpful hints for moving your practice to ICD-10 compliance**

• **Start early** to allow time to identify and understand ICD-10 impacts, implement solutions, test and train.

• **Prepare** for productivity loss due to coding backlogs, longer turnaround time due to staff training, and assessing performance in the new environment.

• **Invest** in training for coders and medical staff.

• **Identify** and address vendor dependencies.

• **Create** a contingency plan if you will not be able to make the compliance date of October 1, 2014.

• **Stay informed** by going to the CMS ICD-10 website, [www.cms.gov/ICD10](http://www.cms.gov/ICD10), and BlueCross’ HIPAA Critical Center website, [www.HIPAACriticalCenter.com](http://www.HIPAACriticalCenter.com).