



ICD-10 Alert!

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published a final ruling in early August 2014, confirming an Oct. 1, 2015, mandated transition to ICD-10. As of this compliance deadline, all Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) covered entities **must** use ICD-10 on claims and other health care transactions.

- ICD-10-CM will replace ICD-9-CM for diagnosis coding in all health care settings. ICD-10-PCS will replace ICD-9-CM for inpatient procedure coding.
- Outpatient and professional ICD-10 coding is based on date of service; inpatient institutional ICD-10 coding is based on date of discharge.
- Outpatient and professional claims will need to be split if services dates span the compliance date.
- Use of other codes, such as Current Procedural Terminology (CPT[®]), HCPCS and Revenue Codes will not be affected by the transition to ICD-10.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) has diligently worked to be prepared to meet mandated ICD-10 timelines and requirements. System and business process changes to accommodate transactions with ICD-10 codes have been implemented and we have successfully conducted testing with selected providers and clearinghouses.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU?

ICD-10 is really happening. It is a federal requirement that you comply, regardless of what kind of health insurance your patients have. BCBSTX will begin accepting ICD-10 codes as of Sept. 21, 2015, for benefit preauthorization requests for services that will be rendered on or after Oct. 1, 2015. Valid ICD-10 codes must be included on claims submitted to BCBSTX for dates of service or inpatient discharge dates on or after Oct. 1, 2015. **Claims without valid ICD-10 codes, as required, will not be accepted by BCBSTX.**

TAKE ACTION NOW!

If you haven't started getting ready, we urge you to take immediate action. Here are some things you can do, right now – especially if you haven't yet started to prepare for the transition to ICD-10:

- Obtain ICD-10 coding manuals.
- Identify the ICD-9 codes you use most often today and compare to ICD-10: What's the same? What's different?
- Seek training for all areas of your practice to help improve documentation, coding and billing.
- Talk to your practice management software vendor – have all updates been made?
- If you use a billing service and/or clearinghouse, talk with them, too – are they prepared to support ICD-10? If not, it may be time to find a new vendor.

LEARN MORE FROM THE SOURCE

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) offers complimentary ICD-10 readiness resources to assist you. Visit the CMS [Road to 10](http://roadto10.org) site at roadto10.org for a Basics for Small and Rural Practices reference guide, instructional videos, specialty-specific flyers, tips on communicating with your billing service or clearinghouse, instructions on how to sign up to receive email updates from CMS, and more. Also refer to the [ICD-10 Quick Start Guide](https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/Downloads/ICD10QuickStartGuide20150622.pdf) at <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/Downloads/ICD10QuickStartGuide20150622.pdf>.

BCBSTX RESOURCES

Assess your readiness. Review implementation details. Stay informed. Visit the ICD-10 page in the Standards and Requirements section of our website at bcbstx.com/provider for answers to [frequently asked questions](#), among other resources. Also watch the [Blue Review](#) and [News and Updates](#) on our Provider website for announcements. If you need assistance with ICD-10 questions, email us at icd@bcbstx.com, or contact your local Network Management Representative.

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