Talking to Your Vendors About ICD-10 and Version 5010: Tips for Medical Practices

If you are covered by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), you need to prepare for two firm deadlines to comply with mandated changes:

**January 1, 2012** — for full compliance with Version 5010 standards if you conduct electronic transactions either directly or through a clearinghouse or billing service

**October 1, 2013** — for full implementation of ICD-10 code sets

These transition dates are definite. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) established the deadlines in two final regulations issued on January 16, 2009, and confirmed them on March 5, 2009. HHS does not plan to extend the deadlines.

If you submit electronic claims, you need to have completed internal testing of Version 5010 systems in time to begin external testing with your payers, clearinghouses, billing services, and other business partners by **January 1, 2011**.

An important step in preparing for these changes is to talk with any software vendors, clearinghouses, or billing services you use to be sure they are ready to provide the support you need. Your vendors will need to have products and services ready well in advance of the compliance deadlines to allow adequate time for testing.

Your vendors can provide you with details about what you need to comply with Version 5010 standards, which replace the Version 4010/4010A standards currently used for electronic transactions. Unlike Version 4010/4010A standards, Version 5010 accommodates the ICD-10 code sets that become effective in 2013.

**Start the Conversation with Your Vendors**

Talk with your vendors now to be sure that you can count on them to:

- Have fully functional, compliant products and services ready in plenty of time to allow thorough Version 5010 and ICD-10 testing
- Help you avoid potential reimbursement issues

Visit [www.cms.gov/ICD10](http://www.cms.gov/ICD10) for ICD-10 and Version 5010 resources from CMS.
Ask your vendors to establish a comprehensive approach that will deliver compatible products well ahead of the transition deadlines. Points to consider discussing with your vendors include:

- Systems upgrades/replacements needed to accommodate Version 5010/ICD-10
- Costs involved and whether upgrades will be covered by existing contracts
- When upgrades or new systems will be available for testing and implementation
- Customer support and training that they will provide
- How their products and services will accommodate both ICD-9 and ICD-10 as you work with claims for services provided both before and after the transition deadline for code sets

Talking to your vendors now about ICD-10 and Version 5010 will help ensure that your transition goes smoothly.

**Version 5010/ICD-10 Resources**

There are many professional, clinical, and trade associations offering a wide variety of Version 5010 and ICD-10 information, educational resources, and checklists. Call or check the Web sites of your associations and other industry groups to see what resources are available.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Web site has official CMS resources to help you prepare for Version 5010 and ICD-10 at [www.cms.gov/ICD10](http://www.cms.gov/ICD10). CMS will continue to add new tools and information to the site throughout the course of the transition.

*This fact sheet was prepared as a service to the health care industry and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations, and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.*