

# Preparing for

## ICD-10

All health care professionals must be prepared to use ICD-10 diagnosis and procedure codes for all health care services and claim submissions by **October 1, 2015**.

Many business processes and software systems will be impacted, and this could result in lengthy and labor-intensive implementations. Physicians should not depend solely on their software vendors, billing offices or clearing houses for transition to ICD-10. With payers exploring the implications of rejecting claims submitted with an ICD-9 code and a date of service on or after **October 1, 2015**, a comprehensive assessment of your organization is required to ensure uninterrupted claims and reimbursement processing.

As part of our commitment to making it easier for you to navigate the health care system, we have created an ICD-10 Reference Section on our website. There you will find tools and resources to help you:

- Assess the impact of your ICD-10 on your practice.
- Engage your business partners to determine their readiness for ICD-10.
- Find information on ICD-10 training and certification.

For more information, please log in to [www.NaviNet.net](http://www.NaviNet.net) or visit our website [www.HorizonBlue.com/Providers](http://www.HorizonBlue.com/Providers) and click *Reference Materials* and then *ICD-10*.

If you have questions about ICD-10, or you would like to join our mailing list for ICD-10 news and updates, please send your contact information to [<ICD10Communications@HorizonBlue.com>](mailto:ICD10Communications@HorizonBlue.com).

**Horizon BCBSNJ intends to be compliant with all Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services regulations and mandated dates for acceptance of ICD-10, by October 1, 2015.**

*(Over, please)*



Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey

*Making Healthcare Work.*

An independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.  
® Registered marks of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.  
® and SM Registered and service marks of Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey.  
© 2011 Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey  
Three Penn Plaza East, Newark, New Jersey 07105

27047 (0411)

# Questions and Answers about ICD-10

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has mandated that all health plans and health care professionals replace current ICD-9 code sets with ICD-10 code sets by **October 1, 2013**. Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey is pleased to offer the following information about the ICD-10 mandate.

## Q1. What is ICD-10?

**A1.** ICD-10 is an abbreviation for the International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision. ICD-10 is used to report health care diagnoses using diagnosis and procedure code sets. We currently use the ninth revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9), and are mandated to move to ICD-10 by October 1, 2013.

## Q2. How are ICD code sets used?

**A2.** A physician evaluates a patient, diagnoses a condition and develops a plan for treatment. The use of ICD diagnosis and procedure codes ensures that billing and reimbursement processes are standardized.

## Q3. Why are we moving to a new code set?

**A3.** ICD-9 was developed in the 1970s and contains approximately 13,000 diagnosis codes and 11,000 procedure codes. ICD-9 code sets have structure and space restrictions, and are limited in their ability to accommodate advances in medical knowledge and techniques.

ICD-10 provides approximately 68,000 diagnosis codes and 87,000 procedure codes. ICD-10 is being used in almost every country in the world, except the United States.

## Q4. The mandate is effective October 1, 2013.

### Why address this now?

**A4.** The effort that will be required to adopt ICD-10 will be massive. Diagnosis and procedure codes are used in core business processes throughout the health care industry. ICD-10 is far more specific than ICD-9 and, as a result, there will be mapping variations between the old ICD-9 code and the new ICD-10 code. Significant work must be completed before October 1, 2013, and that work must begin today to ensure we meet this deadline.

## Q5. What are the benefits of ICD-10?

**A5.** The new structure will not only improve statistical reporting worldwide, but will better reflect current medical knowledge and enhance management information throughout the industry. We should also see a reduction in the number of rejected claims because of greater standardization in the claims and reimbursement processes.

## Q6. How is Horizon BCBSNJ preparing for the mandate?

**A6.** We have formed an ICD-10 Program Management Office to oversee the initiative, and have developed an Implementation Roadmap to further define the ICD-10 transition throughout our organization.

## Q7. What can my office do to prepare for the mandate?

**A7.** Talk to the vendor of your Practice Management System about their readiness and how they plan to implement ICD-10 changes within your office. Discuss ICD-10 and its implications with your practice's owners and management, and start thinking about education and training for your coding and billing staff.

## Q8. Where can I get more information for my office?

**A8.** The following websites provide more information on ICD-10:

[www.cms.gov/ICD10/](http://www.cms.gov/ICD10/).

[www.who.int/classifications/](http://www.who.int/classifications/).

[www.ahima.org/ICD10/](http://www.ahima.org/ICD10/).

If you have questions about ICD-10, or you would like to join our mailing list for ICD-10 news and updates, please send your contact information to [ICD10Communications@HorizonBlue.com](mailto:ICD10Communications@HorizonBlue.com).