Responding to requests from the provider community

CMS released additional guidance for flexibility in the Part B claims auditing and quality reporting process as the medical community gains experience using the new ICD-10 code set. The guidance only applies to professional claims and all claims need to be correctly coded on October 1 in order to avoid rejections, denials, or incorrect reimbursement.

The White House and CMS announced a safe harbor transition that includes appointing an Ombudsman and a range of online resources—including web conferences and training documents—during a 12 month transition period starting October 1.

Check out the following online resource:


ICD-10 Codes

You will likely only use a fraction of the 68,000 ICD-10 codes. You should study the most frequently seen diagnoses and their ICD-10 codes used in your practice so you don’t have to learn all of the codes. Additional items to note are:

- A valid ICD-10 code is still required on all claims starting October 1
- ICD-10 does not provide an immunity blanket when coding errors occur
- ICD-10 does not weaken determination of coverage, medical necessity, or quality of care
- CPT codes will not change, so the evaluation & management (E&M) codes remain the same
- DSM-V contains the alpha-numeric information required under ICD-10 for valid psychiatric diagnoses. [www.dsm5.org](http://www.dsm5.org)

How will Cigna-HealthSpring® CarePlan (Medicare-Medicaid Plan) handle claims that are not billed according to a National Coverage Decision (NCD) or Local Coverage Decision (LCD) policy coding guidelines?

Cigna-HealthSpring CarePlan will continue to follow CMS guidelines and edit claims prior to payment for correct ICD-10 coding when specificity is required under an NCD or LCD. The recent CMS guidance does not change the coding specificity required by the NCDs and LCDs. Coverage policies that currently require a specific diagnosis under ICD-9 will continue to require a specific diagnosis under ICD-10. These policies require no greater specificity in ICD-10 than was required in ICD-9 with the exception of laterality. LCDs and NCDs that contain ICD-10 codes for right side, left side or bilateral do not allow for unspecified side. The NCDs and LCDs are publicly available and can be found at: [http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/](http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/)

Confirm with your IT department or vendors to ensure any EMR platforms used are ICD-10 ready. Seek training now and test the new code set to avoid disruption in your revenue cycle. All healthcare professionals are expected to use a code from the correct family of codes for quality reporting measures to avoid audit penalties.

Cigna-HealthSpring CarePlan is on schedule for ICD-10 implementation set to begin on October 1.

It is imperative your practice take steps now to prepare. Researching ICD-10 codes is easy, and can be done electronically. These links will assist you with compliance.

- Cigna-HealthSpring CarePlan ICD-10 site: [http://starplus.cignahealthspring.com/hsstarplusicd10](http://starplus.cignahealthspring.com/hsstarplusicd10)

List of ICD-10 codes:

- [http://www.icd10data.com/](http://www.icd10data.com/)

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