Preparing For ICD-10

You should be well on your way with plans to implement ICD-10, effective October 1, 2013. If you have not begun your preparation for ICD-10, it is imperative that you start planning now. Below is a suggested action plan to begin your move towards compliance with this federally mandated requirement.

- Educate office staff on the ICD-10 compliance requirements.
- Review your current systems and work processes – electronic or manual.
- Investigate the potential changes to existing practice workflow and business processes.
- Contact your current practice management system vendor, clearinghouse or billing service to identify submission upgrade expectations.
- Compare options and benefits of full system upgrades vs. minimal compliance to take advantage of new automated features.
- Determine installation, testing and implementation timeframes.
- Evaluate and plan for staff training needs.

Anthem Blue Cross is committed to ensuring that our systems, supporting business processes, policies and procedures successfully meet the implementation standards and deadlines mandated by the HHS without interruption to day-to-day business practices. We have established cross-functional teams throughout the organization, dedicated to researching issues, assessing systems, reviewing business processes, and educating the Anthem Blue Cross organization and its affiliates about implementation procedures.

Below are additional industry resources available to assist you in your planning and preparation:

- Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association (BCBSA) – [www.bcbsa.com/issues/icd-10](http://www.bcbsa.com/issues/icd-10)

Learning More About ICD-10-CM (Diagnosis Coding)

Upon implementation, ICD-10-CM codes are to be used to report diagnoses in all health care settings, including ambulatory and physician services, with dates of service on or after October 1, 2013, and for all diagnoses on claims for inpatient settings with dates of discharge that occur on or after October 1, 2013. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has highlighted the following features coming with ICD-10-CM codes:

- Laterality (left, right, bilateral)
- Combination codes for certain conditions and common associated symptoms and manifestations
- Combination codes for poisonings and their associated external cause
- Obstetric codes identify trimester instead of episode of care
- Inclusion of clinical concepts that do not exist in ICD-9-CM (e.g., underdosing, blood type, blood alcohol level)
- A number of codes have been significantly expanded (e.g., injuries, diabetes, substance abuse, postoperative complications)
- Codes for postoperative complications have been expanded and a distinction made between intraoperative complications and postprocedural disorders