CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

# The ICD-10 Transition and Public Health Surveillance - What You Need to Know

CDC ICD-10 Transition Workgroup

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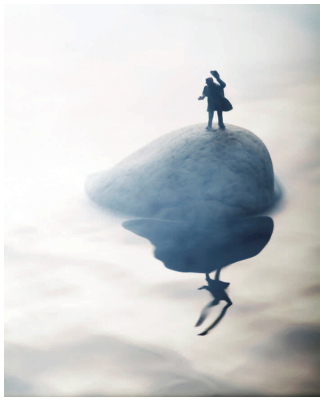
**Quick Facts:**

- All entities covered by HIPAA will transition to ICD-10 on October 1, 2014.
- All users will transition on the same date.
- ICD-10-CM replaces ICD-9-CM, Volumes 1 and 2 for all health care settings.
- ICD-10-PCS replaces ICD-9-CM, Volume 3 for inpatient procedures.
- ICD-10 was implemented for mortality reporting in the U.S. in 1999.
- Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes will not change.
- ICD-9-CM claims for services will not be accepted for services provided on/after October 1, 2014.



## ICD-10 is Coming on October 1, 2014

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has mandated that all entities covered by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) transition from the International Classification of Diseases version 9 (ICD-9-CM) to version 10 (ICD-10-CM/PCS) on October 1, 2014. This represents a huge shift for the health care industry but many public health entities also rely on the receipt of ICD-9-CM coded data from HIPAA-covered entities to conduct regular surveillance activities. It is imperative that public health entities prepare their systems, processes and people for the transition to ensure continuity of surveillance services and functions.

## Why Change?

The U.S. has been using ICD-9-CM since 1979 and it is not sufficiently robust to serve the health care needs of the future. The content is no longer clinically accurate, the number of available codes is limited, and the coding structure is too restrictive. The U.S. cannot directly compare morbidity diagnosis data to state and national mortality data because mortality data have already transitioned to ICD-10 code sets. Further, most developed countries have already made the transition to ICD-10 code sets so the U.S. cannot compare U.S. morbidity diagnosis data at the international level.

ICD-10 code sets have updated medical terminology and classification of diseases and procedures, allow comparison of morbidity diagnosis and mortality data, and provide better data for measuring care provided to patients, tracking health conditions, making clinical decisions, identifying fraud and abuse, epidemiological research, designing payment systems and processing claims.

| Differences Between ICD-9-CM and ICD-10 Code Sets | | |
|---|---|---|
| | ICD-9-CM | ICD-10 code sets |
| Procedures | 3,824 codes | 72,589 codes |
| Diagnosis | 14,025 codes | 68,069 codes |
| **ICD-10 Code Structure Changes (selected details)** | | |
| | Old | New |
| Diagnosis Structure | ICD-9-CM<br>• 3 -5 characters<br>• First character is numeric or alpha<br>• Characters 2-5 are numeric | ICD-10-CM<br>• 3 -7 characters<br>• Character 1 is alpha<br>• Character 2 is numeric<br>• Characters 3 – 7 can be alpha or numeric |
| Procedure Structure | ICD-9-CM<br>• 3-4 characters<br>• All characters are numeric<br>• All codes have at least 3 characters | ICD-10-PCS<br>• ICD-10-PCS has 7 characters<br>• Each can be either alpha or numeric<br>• Numbers 0-9; letters A-H, J-N, P-Z |

Table 1. Key Differences Between Code Sets

## Will You be Affected by the Transition?

*Is your program covered by HIPAA?*

*Does your program receive ICD-9-CM coded data from HIPAA-covered entities?*

*Does your program receive verbatim diagnosis or procedure information that you code?*

*Do you analyze public-use data files derived from or including ICD-9-CM codes?*

*Do you support systems that consume ICD-9-CM data?*

If you answered yes to any of these questions then you are likely affected by the transition to ICD-10 code sets. Read on to learn how you might be affected and to see tips and tools that may help you with the transition.

**Will you be prepared on October 1, 2014?**

**Tips:**

- Begin planning now!
- Develop a project plan and integrate planning for the transition into your regular programmatic activities.
- Seek leadership support and an executive sponsor early in the process.
- Define the resources you will need and advocate for them as soon as possible.
- Leverage existing communications network in your organization to spread the message that ICD-10 is coming.
- Leverage an organization-wide structure to "house" ICD-10 efforts to ensure inclusiveness and prevent siloed efforts.

## CDC Contact Information

Questions regarding the ICD-10 Transition Workgroup? Email us at ICD-10Transition@cdc.gov

## How Might You be Affected by the Transition?

**Systems:**

Changes may be needed to accommodate the new codes:

- Extend character length to 7
- Increase messaging capacity
- Increase storage capacity
- Modify system logic and edits
- Update system documentation
- Modify links with other systems

**Processes:**

Modifications may be needed for public health business processes:

- Statistical analysis programs
- Data extraction programs
- Data tables
- Publications
- Reports
- Health condition definitions
- Trend analyses

**People:**

Primary users: For those who assign diagnosis and/or procedure codes, you will need thorough training in ICD-10 code sets.

Secondary users: For those of you who utilize already coded ICD data, you will need to learn the new codes that apply to your data.

Training of staff will be critical to a smooth transition.

## Impact of Transition on Public Health Surveillance

Public health entities whose systems, processes and people rely on already coded ICD data may face many challenges with the transition to ICD-10 code sets:

- Competing priorities with Meaningful Use and shrinking budgets
- Lacking ICD-10 expertise in public health sector
- Training needs for public health workforce
- Differing condition definitions across code sets
- Reporting 9 months of ICD-9-CM data and 3 months of ICD-10-CM/PCS in same year
- Analyzing multi-year data across code sets
- Achieving consensus on transition issues among stake-holders

## Tools You Can Use

Below are some free tools that may be useful to you in your transition planning efforts.

**General Equivalence Mappings (GEMs)** - These are bi-directional (backward and forward maps) mappings designed to aid in converting applications and systems from ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-CM/PCS. They can also be used to "find and replace" codes or lists of codes.

- To obtain GEMs for CM: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd/icd10cm.htm and select "General Equivalence Mapping Files"
- To obtain GEMs for PCS: https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/2013-ICD-10-PCS-GEMs.html

**Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine—Clinical Terms (SNOMED CT) to ICD-10-CM map**: http://www.nlm.nih.gov/research/umls/mapping_projects/snomedct_to_icd10cm.html

**Cancer case finding lists for ICD-10**: http://seer.cancer.gov/registrars/

## ICD-10 Resources

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services ICD-10 website: http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/
- National Center for Health Statistics ICD-10 website: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd/icd10cm.htm
- For more information on converting ICD-9-CM-based systems to ICD-10-CM/PCS go to: http://www.cms.gov/CD10/17_ICD10_MS_DRG_Conversion_Project.asp