

September 4, 2014

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HHS establishes Oct. 1, 2015, ICD-10 compliance date

It's official! The rule published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in the [Aug. 4, 2014, Federal Register](#) took effect this week, solidifying Oct. 1, 2015, as the new compliance date for the transition to ICD-10, the 10th revision of the International Classification of Diseases.

The one-year delay from the previously announced date of Oct. 1, 2014, was necessary because of the unexpected enactment of [H.R. 4302, the Protecting Access to Medicare Act](#) (PAMA) on April 1, 2014. PAMA included a provision that prohibited the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) from enforcing any mandate to adopt the ICD-10 code sets as the national standard prior to Oct. 1, 2015. HHS explained in the rule that establishing the shortest delay permitted by law was the least expensive option and would preserve the accrued momentum towards ICD-10 compliance.

In addition to delaying the ICD-10 compliance date, the rule requires payers and providers to use ICD-9-CM codes through Sept. 30, 2015. Following the ICD-10 compliance date of Oct. 1, 2015, providers and payers must use:

- ICD-9 codes in transactions for services provided before the compliance date.
- ICD-10 codes in transactions for services provided on or after the compliance date.

We cannot know with certainty whether there will be any further delays in the implementation of ICD-10, but we will continue to monitor developments related to the transition and keep you apprised as we learn more. In the meantime, the Sedgwick ICD-10 task force is moving forward to ensure that our systems are ready for the Oct. 1, 2015, conversion from approximately 15,000 ICD-9 codes to nearly 70,000 ICD-10 codes.

For additional information regarding the ICD-10 initiative, please refer to www.cms.gov/ICD10. Should you have any questions about the transition to ICD-10, please contact our dedicated ICD-10 task force at ICD10@sedgwick.com. Thank you for your continued support.

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