

## **ICD-10 Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is BCBSRI doing to prepare for the ICD-10 conversion?**

BCBSRI has conducted a business- and enterprise-wide assessment to identify the impact of ICD-10 on business operations and IT systems and has started its ICD-10 transition program. We have engaged the impacted areas of our company in business assessments and planning for the move from 18,000 ICD-9 codes to more than 150,000 ICD-10 codes. We have developed a four-year roadmap that incorporates data analysis, system design and development, development of business processes and policies, communication, required partner testing, and training for affected areas.

We will collaborate with the medical community to share information and minimize disruption related to the implementation of ICD-10. We will also work across the industry, collaborating with the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association (BCBSA) to address challenges related to transition and implementation. We will continue to align ourselves with CMS's direction and will look for opportunities to provide input on the ICD-10 conversion.

### **What should physician practices and facilities do to prepare for the October 1, 2014, ICD-10 compliance date?**

The October 2014 compliance date may seem far off, but the complexity of conversion requires immediate action to address the business and clinical issues associated with the transition. The ICD-10 conversion will affect nearly all provider systems and many processes. The largest impact will likely be in clinical and financial documentation, billing and coding, and electronic health records.

It is not too early to begin planning and preparation. You should be in contact with your billing or software vendor(s) to understand their plans for compliance, conversion, and testing. In addition, we are advising our network providers to plan for required training for their staff members and budget for potential expenses.

### **My practice has an EDI vendor and/or utilizes electronic health records, do I need to do anything to prepare for ICD-10, or, will my vendors be able to do all the leg work needed for the conversion?**

Yes, you need to review and update all of your business processes, clinical documentation, encounter forms/superbills, practice management system, electronic health record system, contracts, and public health and quality reporting protocols. It is likely that wherever ICD-9 codes now appear, ICD-10 codes will take their place.

### **Will BCBSRI conduct ICD-10 testing with providers?**

We plan to conduct testing in collaboration with our business partners. CMS has advised all impacted entities to begin internal testing by January 2013. We will keep providers informed about our progress on the ICD-10 transition, particularly as it relates to timelines and testing.

### **When will BCBSRI begin testing with providers/partners?**

BCBSRI will begin external testing with providers, trading partners, etc. in Q1 2014. Testing will run until Q3 2014.

### **What will BCBSRI be testing with external partners?**

BCBSRI will test with external partners the entire process, including syntax, acknowledgement and 835 returned and provider validates 835.

### **Will providers / partners need a new connection to test system?**

Yes. Each provider/partner will need to be configured in test region with a different ID than production's.

### **What type of connection(s) will be needed for testing?**

BCBSRI will be using SFMP/STP and HTTPS connections.

### **What is BCBSRI's approach to mapping ICD-9 codes to the ICD-10 codes?**

Mappings between ICD-9 and ICD-10 identify corresponding diagnosis codes between the two code sets.\* CMS has provided General Equivalency Mappings (GEM) as an approach to define reasonable alternatives for mappings between ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes in both directions. While the GEMs provide guidance and a starting point for crosswalk analysis and development, there is currently no industry standard for mapping. BCBSRI is evaluating the GEMs to determine how they can be applied to our practices, while also reviewing common claim scenarios for simulation and modeling.

\**CMS Reimbursement Manual*

### **How will BCBSRI handle ICD-9 codes in relation to compliance date (October 1, 2014)?**

BCBSRI will accept ICD-9 codes with dates of service before the compliance date.

BCBSRI will not accept ICD-9 codes with dates of service after the compliance date.

### **Will the ICD-10 conversion have an effect on provider reimbursement and contracting?**

We are evaluating what the impact of ICD-10 will be on our contracts, reimbursement, and clinical operations. We do believe the transition from 18,000 codes to more than 150,000 codes will have an impact on the entire industry. Mappings between ICD-9 and ICD-10 identify corresponding diagnosis codes between the two code sets. It is important to note that the ICD-10 conversion was not intended to alter payment or reimbursement. However, it may result in reimbursement methodologies that more accurately reflect patient status and care.

### **Who is the contact person for ICD-10 questions?**

ICD-10 Program Manager, Stevan Silva, [stevan.silva@bcbsri.org](mailto:stevan.silva@bcbsri.org).

### **Where can I find additional information on ICD-10?**

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

- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS): <http://www.cms.gov/ICD10/>
- Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI): <http://www.wedi.org/index.shtml>
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association: <http://www.bcbs.com/issues/icd-10/>
- American Medical Association:  
<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/physician-resources/solutions-managing-yourpractice/coding-billing-insurance/hipaahealth-insurance-portability-accountability-act.shtml>