

ICD-10 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

JUNE 23, 2015

Dear Valued PathGroup Client:

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) mandated conversion from the International Classification of Diseases 9th Revision (ICD-9) to the International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision (ICD-10) will go into effect October 1, 2015.

Physicians, insurance providers, EHR/EMR vendors, and laboratories are just some of those preparing to implement the new code set. PathGroup is no exception. With the deadline quickly approaching, we are working diligently to facilitate a smooth transition for our clients.

Clinical Laboratories are required to submit accurate and complete diagnosis codes to payers. The new ICD-10 clinical modification introduces greater specificity in code assignment, expanded injury codes, flexibility to add new codes, and more. Claims submitted with inaccurate or incomplete diagnosis coding may result in denials, creating additional time and labor from all parties to resolve. PathGroup relies on ordering physicians to submit appropriate diagnosis codes for all laboratory services requested. For proper claims processing on and after October 1, it is essential that the most accurate and complete ICD-10 diagnosis codes is filed to avoid incident.

PathGroup is equipped to support the new code set and is actively working to integrate all systems and departments. A brief overview of key initiatives are detailed below.

Information Technology: The development team is actively working on updating features that will be visible in applications such as PathConnect, but also underlying architecture and databases which support our system applications. Tasks relating to order entry have been completed with internal validation and verification in progress.

EHR/EMR Vendors: Clients who utilize an interface ordering system should continue to work with their EHR/EMR vendor to confirm ICD-10 codes are properly loaded and function accurately when submitting tests. PathGroup is working with EMR and practice management software vendors to test our ability to receive ICD-10 codes through integrations with these vendors. We will continue to engage and guide our clients and their interface partner towards an easy transition.

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Billing Systems: The billing and business office is making major strides as they prepare for updates associated with billing systems, claims processing, work flow, and coder education. Internal and external processes are being tested and confirmed by payers for a seamless move to ICD-10.

If you have not already, clients should begin preparing now for the ICD-10 transition. A full assessment of your practice should be conducted to include, but is not limited to, analyzing your internal systems and workflow, talking to your vendors, identifying training needs and assessing your budget. There are many professional, clinical, and trade associations offering ICD-10 information, educational resources, and checklists. Call or check the websites of your associations and other industry groups to see what resources are available.

As PathGroup continues to prepare for the ICD-10 clinical modification, we will provide progress updates as projects reach completion or new processes develop. With our clients and patients in mind, we remain focused on executing a seamless conversion and uninterrupted service.

For more information about PathGroup's ICD-10 transition status and resources to help your practice prepare, visit the Physician Resources page at www.pathgroup.com.