



## **Delay of ICD-10 Implementation to 2015 Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Background**

On April 1, 2014, President Obama signed into law a bill that delays the implementation of ICD-10 diagnosis and procedure codes. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) cannot adopt the ICD-10 code set as the standard **until at least Oct. 1, 2015**.

The ICD-10 delay was part of legislation that adjusted the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) and amended the Social Security Act to extend Medicare payments to physicians and change other provisions of the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

### **Q1. How does this delay specifically impact the UnitedHealthcare ICD-10 implementation plan?**

- A. UnitedHealthcare is committed to meeting the requirements for the implementation of the ICD-10 and we have assessed how to best adjust our own operations, processes and testing timelines. The extended timeframe will allow us more time to continue with our preparation for ICD-10 and to work with our provider partners to ensure a smooth transition.

### **Q2. What does the new compliance date mean for internal testing?**

- A. UnitedHealthcare will complete all planned end-to-end and neutrality test activities through the third quarter of 2014. If the new Compliance Date of Oct. 1, 2015 is adopted, UnitedHealthcare will conduct end-to-end testing in Q2 2015.

### **Q3. What does the new compliance date mean for business partner testing?**

- A. UnitedHealthcare will explore the opportunity of 'pilot' business partner testing with one or more providers to verify test process, tools and preliminary results.

### **Q4. Will UnitedHealthcare be prepared to accept ICD-10 coded claims on the previous compliance date of Oct. 1, 2014 from providers who can generate ICD-10 coded claims?**

- A. Under the law, the HHS cannot adopt the ICD-10 code set until at least Oct. 1, 2015, so no claims may be processed with ICD-10 codes before this date. In fact, [CMS has issued guidance about the new ICD-10 compliance date](#) and has stated it will specifically mandate the use of ICD-9 code through September 30, 2015 for all HIPAA covered entities.

### **Q5: What if there are state specific requirements that allow (or mandate) ICD-10 submissions for certain products like Medicaid?**

- A. The UnitedHealthcare ICD-10 team is monitoring requirements from individual states for Medicaid products and will take appropriate action once those requirements have been identified and confirmed.

### **Q6. How does the one-year implementation delay to Oct. 1, 2015, impact payers and providers?**

- A. The one-year delay allows all stakeholders to better prepare for the transition to ICD-10. One way to prepare is by continuing to dual code and to ensure your practice's business process and workflow is ready for ICD-10. Payers and providers should continue to carry out their ICD-10

implementation plans in order to prepare. The extra time will allow for proper personnel staffing and process and technology modifications necessary for the launch of ICD-10. The benefit of continuing ICD-10 preparation is expected to result in the mitigation of the productivity challenges that many industry experts agree are likely to occur in the time period directly after the transition.

**Q7. When will the ICD-10 websites be updated with the new compliance date?**

- A. The ICD-10 Outreach website, [UnitedHealthcareOnline.com](http://UnitedHealthcareOnline.com) > [Tools & Resources](#) > [Health Information Technology](#) > [ICD-10](#), is updated to reflect the current ICD-10 effective date. The ICD-10 Outreach website contains educational material, ICD-10 tools, industry resources and partnership information to assist UnitedHealthcare's provider network to achieve ICD-10 compliance.

**Q8. Where can I find more information?**

- A. Learn more about ICD-10 at [UnitedHealthcareOnline.com](http://UnitedHealthcareOnline.com) > [Tools & Resources](#) > [Health Information Technology](#) > [ICD-10](#) or select the "ICD-10 and Regulatory Outreach" quick link in the top right section of the home page to find education tools and resources designed to support your ICD-10 transition. You may also submit question to [ICD10Questions@uhc.com](mailto:ICD10Questions@uhc.com).