

## ICD-10 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

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**JULY 31, 2015**

Dear Valued PathGroup Client:

**The conversion from ICD-9 to ICD-10 is quickly approaching and will go into effect on October 1, 2015 – just two months away!** PathGroup is working diligently towards implementation and will be equipped to support the new code set come October. PathGroup is actively working to integrate all systems and resources, and encourage our clients to do the same. July's key initiative update is detailed below.

Information Technology: The majority of required software changes have been completed and are in the final stages of quality assurance testing. In an effort to allow ample time to address potential issues that are uncovered in the live environment, software updates will be moved into production by the end of August. Formal User Acceptance Testing (UAT) for ICD-10 is slated to start the first of August and will continue throughout the month.

EHR/EMR Vendors: PathGroup's Interface Department has performed a full round of ICD-10 tests with selected vendors, and validated that the PathGroup's system is processing data correctly. A formal test process with universal guidelines is being utilized, enabling PathGroup to offer ICD-10 testing to any vendors upon request. A task force has been assigned to address all ICD-10 identified issues. This solution is ready, fully-tested, and capable of processing ICD-10 codes.

PathConnect: Internal validation and verification are now complete for the PathConnect order-entry application. With the conclusion of the acceptance training, the new PathConnect features for ICD-10 are expected to be implemented in the next PathConnect release, with a current rollout date expected in mid-August.

Billing Systems: The billing and business office continues to be on track in preparation for the go-live date. The GE Billing System utilized by PathGroup is in the process of upgrades to be completed in July, and successful EDI testing with participating payers continues. Effective coder education is ongoing, with credentialing certification administered through AAPC (American Academy of Professional Coders) and PMI (Practice Management Institute).

At this time, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is urging the healthcare community, including physicians, insurance providers, EHR/EMR vendors, and laboratories, to begin testing their systems to ensure ICD-10 readiness. Testing is vital to making sure you can create and submit claims using ICD-10 prior to and after the compliance date.

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In order to facilitate a smooth transition and allow for time to address any issues that are uncovered during testing, clients are reminded to test all relevant systems within your practice that relate to vendors, clearinghouses, billing services, and health plans. Any system that stores, processes, sends, receives, or reports diagnosis code information should undergo an assessment. The CMS suggests providers should map out workflows and verify that your systems can be used to generate claims, schedule outpatient procedures, perform eligibility and benefits verification, schedule an office visit, update a patient's history and problems, code a patient encounter, etc. Focus on examples of scenarios you see more frequently or are higher-risk, like common diagnoses or processing claims.

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 are filed to avoid incident.

As PathGroup further prepares for the ICD-10 clinical modification, we are committed to continuing to 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](http://www.pathgroup.com).**