Are You Ready for ICD-10?

**October 1, 2013** is the compliance date for implementation of the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification/Procedure Coding System (ICD-10-CM/PCS) for all covered entities. ICD-10 replaces the ninth revision currently being used nationally. Entities covered by HIPAA must make the transition to ICD-10 for HIPAA-covered transactions. BCNEPA will convert to ICD-10 for all electronic transactions, paper claims and communications.

**How to Prepare**

The transition to ICD-10 may affect many aspects of your office operations. Be proactive by preparing for a smooth transition to ICD-10 so you’re ready by the **October 1, 2013** compliance deadline. Here are some steps to help you begin your preparation:

- Identify your current systems and work processes that use ICD-9 codes (i.e. clinical documentation, encounter forms or superbills, practice management system, electronic health record system, contracts, and public health and quality reporting protocols).

- Identify the ICD-9 codes that you use most often. By identifying the codes you use most often, it may be easier to determine, prepare and minimize the impacts to your operation.

- Contact your practice management system vendor about accommodations for Version 5010 and how to establish a comprehensive strategy to successfully make the transition leading up to the October 1, 2013 deadline.

- Discuss implementation plans with your clearinghouses, billing services and practice management software vendor to ensure a smooth transition.

- Assess staff training needs. There are many training opportunities and materials available through professional associations, online courses, webinars and onsite training. Although coding professionals recommend that training take place approximately six months before the October 1, 2013 compliance date, there is much preparation required before that training.

- Budget time and costs related to ICD-10 implementation, including expenses for system changes, resource materials and training.

- Visit the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) web site at [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov) for more information about the ICD-10 transition.

We will continue to provide regular updates in our *Provider Bulletin* on the status of our ICD-10 transition and implementation. Please check back for further updates on implementation timelines and general provider updates. Please work with your vendor/clearinghouse and share all pertinent ICD-10 information accordingly to ensure your claim submission software and processes are ready by October 1, 2013.