

## LOOKING AHEAD TO ICD-10

### Attention: Vermont Medicaid Providers

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has ruled that, as of October 1, 2015, all HIPAA compliant health care providers, health plans, clearinghouses, billing services, and vendors must start using ICD-10-CM for diagnosis coding and ICD-10-PCS for coding hospital inpatient procedures. (45 CFR 162 and H.R. 4302)

This *DVHA Update* will help you understand ICD-10, its implications for your practice, and the steps you can take for a smooth transition and uninterrupted reimbursements. Please note that this publication is geared specifically to outpatient services. For more wide-ranging information, please visit the DVHA ICD-10 website.

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### What you need to know

**W**hen to comply? The rule requires that all HIPAA compliant providers must start using ICD-10 diagnosis codes on all claims starting on October 1, 2015.

Among others, the above ICD-10 rule applies to: primary care and specialty practices; mental health providers; home care agencies; clinical social workers and licensed counselors; speech language therapists; long-term care facilities; physical therapists; small practices of all kinds; and those dentists submitting claims with diagnosis codes.

*Beginning on October 1, 2015, Vermont Medicaid will not reimburse any claim without a valid ICD diagnosis code. In addition, you must use the ICD version that matches the relevant service date.*

- For outpatient service, use ICD-10 diagnosis codes for dates-of-service on or after the compliance date of October 1. When the date-of-service is before the compliance date, you should use ICD-9 codes for your claims. Claims submitted after October 1 for services provided before the compliance date should use ICD-9 codes.
- In the case of claims for services that span the October 1 compliance date, please review *Vermont Medicaid Submission Guidelines: Spanned Claims* ([dvha.vermont.gov/for-providers/icd-10-end-to-end-testing-resources](http://dvha.vermont.gov/for-providers/icd-10-end-to-end-testing-resources)), which will assist you in formatting claims with the correct dates.

You can find ICD-10 diagnosis codes by consulting standard references or by checking the CMS GEMs, a tool for the conversion of data from ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-CM. Please see the list of online tools below under Resources. Many professional associations also have information on their websites about ICD-10 diagnosis codes for particular specialties.

# DVHA ICD-10 Update

*Vermont Medicaid is Ready! Are You?*



March 31, 2015

Days to Go-Live: **183**

CPT/HCPCS codes remain unchanged for out-patient and physician services. Reimbursement will continue to be based on the services you provide.

**H**ow you send claims information to Vermont Medicaid depends on your method of submission: electronic or paper. Those providers who use third-party billing services or practice management software should check with their vendor to make sure they are ready for the transition and can assure you that there will be no break in reimbursement.

Those providers who submit paper claims will not be able to test their claims with Vermont Medicaid prior to the cut-over date. This could increase the risk of having claims denied. *Now's the time to transition to electronic claim submission!*

Vermont Medicaid provides free PC-based software for electronic claim submission, also called Provider Electronic Software (PES). If you are one of the 2,000 providers who are enrolled to use PES version 2.26 and higher, you already have the ability to submit electronic ICD-10 claims. You can start testing your claims on May 1, 2015 when the open testing period begins. This will give you the opportunity to verify the validity of your claims before the cut-over date.

**V**ermont Medicaid strongly urges you to abandon paper in favor of electronic submissions. You can download our free software at no cost and gain a number of key advantages. By using PES, you will be able to submit claims electronically, and be paid faster than for claims submitted on paper. You will have the ability to check the status of your claims online the next day and make immediate corrections when necessary. Importantly, using PES will allow you to conduct test submissions ahead of the October 1 deadline to verify your readiness.

The enrollment process for PES is simple and straightforward.

1. Get an account.  
Go to [www.vtmedicaid.com/Downloads/tools.html](http://www.vtmedicaid.com/Downloads/tools.html). Download and complete *EDI Registration* and *Trading Partner Agreement*.
2. Complete, sign and return the trading partner agreement. We will set up your account and email you the information.
3. Download the software.
4. Sign on using your account number and get started.

Provider testing will start on May 1, 2015 for electronic claims. You will receive a separate *DVHA Update* with specific instructions on how to conduct claims testing.

## What's new in ICD-10-CM?

### Improved Specificity

**XXX.XXX X**



ICD-10's 69,000 codes replace 14,000 in ICD-9

## What's new in ICD-10-CM?

### Example:

ICD-9: **362.01**

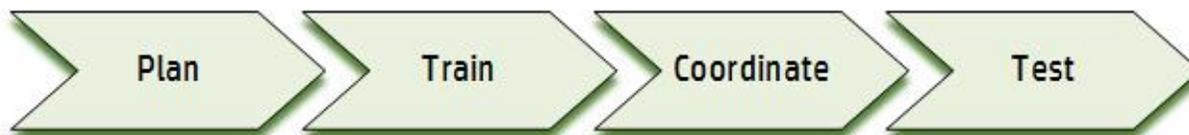
"Diabetic retinopathy"

ICD-10: **E11.319**

"Type 2 diabetes mellitus with unspecified diabetic retinopathy without macular edema"

## What you need to do

Here are some simple steps you can take to prepare for the October 1 deadline. Where you invest your time and effort will depend on the size of your practice, the extent of the services you provide, and your available resources.



### 1. Planning

- Assign someone to be responsible for the transition to ICD-10.
- Assess the impact of ICD-10 on your practice (organizational changes, clinical documentation, budget, and timeline). Plan for operational and financial contingencies. Consider talking to your bank about a bridge loan, just in case there are any delays in reimbursement.

### 2. Training

- Train your team in the basics of ICD-10 coding and new procedures.
- Identify resources to resolve questions. Check with your professional association for additional assistance.

### 3. Coordinate

- Engage with the vendors of your practice management software, clearinghouse or billing services to confirm their readiness.
- Coordinate with payers to assess your readiness and understanding of their reimbursement rules.
- Sign up for electronic claims submission using Vermont Medicaid PES.

### 4. Testing

- Test your ability to submit valid, ICD-10-compliant claims with Vermont Medicaid.
- Work together with your vendors to verify that their systems and processes meet the new requirements and produce valid claims. We encourage you to test with us even if you have tested with another payer.

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## Resources

### ICD-10-CM Resources

Vermont Dept. of Health Access	<a href="http://dvha.vermont.gov/for-providers/icd-10">dvha.vermont.gov/for-providers/icd-10</a>
Vermont Medicaid Provider Portal	<a href="http://www.vtmedicaid.com">www.vtmedicaid.com</a>
CMS "Road to 10"	<a href="http://www.roadto10.org">www.roadto10.org</a>
CMS ICD-9 Lookup	<a href="http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/staticpages/icd-9-code-lookup.aspx">www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/staticpages/icd-9-code-lookup.aspx</a>
CMS ICD-10 Code Lookup	<a href="http://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/staticpages/icd-10-code-lookup.aspx">www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/staticpages/icd-10-code-lookup.aspx</a>
AAPC Translator	<a href="http://www.aapc.com/icd-10/codes">www.aapc.com/icd-10/codes</a>
AHIMA ICD-10	<a href="http://www.ahima.org/topics/icd10">www.ahima.org/topics/icd10</a>

## Coming Soon!

- VPA-sponsored Mental Health Provider's presentation
- Online resources & coding tips for Medicaid-only providers
- ICD-10 Frequently Asked Questions — FAQ

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## Staying in touch

Please forward this notice to your billing department and/or administrator, as appropriate. Provider testing is your responsibility. We look forward to working with you on this endeavor! We've done our part, now it's up to you.

### Go Electronic!

Download PES, the free claims submission software.

- Get quicker payments
- Check eligibility
- Confirm claim status next day
- Resubmit corrected claims immediately

*With PES, you can get paid in as little as nine (9) days!*

### Contact HPES EDI Support

802-879-4450 Option 3  
Or, send email to:  
[vtedicoordinator@hp.com](mailto:vtedicoordinator@hp.com)

### ICD-10 Resources

Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA)  
[dvha.vermont.gov/providers/icd-10/](http://dvha.vermont.gov/providers/icd-10/)

Provider Portal  
[www.vtmedicaid.com](http://www.vtmedicaid.com)

### Get ICD-10 Updates!

Send your email address to:  
[VT-ICD-10@hp.com](mailto:VT-ICD-10@hp.com)

### Contacts

Questions?

Provider Services Help Desk

800-925-1706 in-state  
802-879-4450 Option 1  
[VT-ICD-10@hp.com](mailto:VT-ICD-10@hp.com)

### Get Banners & Advisories

Send your email address to:  
[vtpubs-comm@hp.com](mailto:vtpubs-comm@hp.com)

*Thank you for the services you provide to our Vermont Medicaid members!*