

Medicaid in Education Alert

New York State Department of Health (DOH), Office of Health Insurance Programs (OHIP)
New York State Education Department (NYSED)
Preschool/School Supportive Health Services Program (SSHSP)
Medicaid in Education

Issue #14-02

TO: All SSHSP Medicaid Providers

FROM: NYS DOH OHIP SSHSP &
NYSED Medicaid in Education Unit

DATE: May 1, 2014

SUBJECT: International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision, Clinical
Modification (ICD-10-CM)

The ICD-9-CM diagnosis code sets will be replaced by ICD-10-CM code sets. The codes have updated medical terminology and classification of diseases. ICD-10-CM is a new, revised method of coding to determine the patient's state of health and medical services and procedures provided for that patient. ICD-10-CM is required by all HIPAA-covered entities.

The ICD-10 code set implementation date was moved from October 1, 2014, to **no earlier than October 1, 2015**. New York Medicaid will adhere to the new federal compliance timeframe for ICD-10 implementation and eMedNY will not accept ICD-10 codes until October 1, 2015 at the earliest.

Providers are urged to proceed aggressively with their ICD-10 transition and test at their earliest convenience. The delay should be seen as an opportunity to better assess and address remaining challenges and not as a reason to pause.

A valid diagnosis code is required on all Medicaid claims, per instructions issued in [Medicaid Alert #12-04](#). Medicaid claims for services provided on or after **October 1, 2015** will require a valid International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) diagnosis code.

ICD-10-CM Code Set

The diagnosis code set has been expanded from five positions (first one alphanumeric, others numeric) to seven positions. The new codes use alphanumeric characters in all positions, not just the first position as in ICD-9-CM. There are now 68,000 existing codes in ICD-10-CM compared to the 13,000 in ICD-9-

CM. The new code set provides a significant increase in the specificity of the reporting, allowing more information to be conveyed in a code.

The ICD-10-CM, ICD-10-PCS code sets and the ICD-10-CM official guidelines are available free of charge on the “[2013 ICD-10-CM and GEMs](#)” and “[2013 ICD-10-PCS and GEMs](#)” pages of the CMS ICD-10 website at www.cms.gov/icd10.

Practitioners may also find further ICD-10-CM compliance guidelines and requirements from their respective professional organizations, such as the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA), and the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA).

Transition Planning

The transition from ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-CM code sets will have a significant impact on all Medicaid providers’ claiming processes as well as the billing providers’ business processes and clinical documentation. Billing providers who utilize the services of a vendor or clearinghouse must start communicating with their vendor and or clearinghouse early in their transition process to make sure that they have the products, services and resources necessary to ensure their transition to ICD-10-CM does not have an adverse impact on their reimbursement and does not interrupt their productivity or workflow. It is also important to review and evaluate trading partner agreements and contracts.

School districts and counties must also communicate the ICD-10-CM conversion implementation requirements to their employees, contractors, and other involved practitioners and agencies that are responsible for the documentation necessary to file or support the filing of Medicaid claims for SSHSP services.

Please note that DOH or SED will not be sending out a list of specific and acceptable ICD-10-CM codes that could be used for claiming SSHSP reimbursement. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has resources to help vendors, clearinghouses, and third-party billing services and their customers prepare for a smooth transition to ICD-10-CM. Visit the “[Vendor Resources](#)” section of the [CMS ICD-10 website](#) to learn more.

There are additional ICD-10-CM conversion planning and diagnosis code resources on the CMS website: <http://cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/index.html>

Written Orders/Referrals

The student’s diagnosis and/or reason/need for a medically necessary service is required on written orders/referrals for SSHSP services. All Medicaid claims submitted via eMedNY must contain an ICD diagnosis code that describes the main condition or symptom of the student. In many cases, the diagnosis supplied on the written order/referral by the ordering practitioner is the most appropriate diagnosis to include on Medicaid claims for those services.

The elements required by the Medicaid program on SSHSP written orders/referrals are delineated in [SSHSP Q/A #32](#). Although the ICD diagnosis code is not specifically required by the Medicaid program on written orders/referrals, we are aware that some SSHSP billing providers require ICD diagnosis codes on the written orders/referrals. Existing written orders/referrals that contain ICD-9 diagnosis codes will continue to be valid for the time period specified on each written order/referral as long as an ICD-10-CM can be translated for claiming October 1, 2015 dates of service forward. It is not necessary to acquire a

new written order/referral for the purpose of obtaining the appropriate ICD-10 diagnosis code; however a school district or county is not prohibited from doing so.

If the existing written orders/referrals do not contain the actual numeric or alphanumeric ICD diagnosis code, the diagnosis on the written order/referral will have to be translated into the appropriate numeric or alphanumeric code (ICD-9-CM, 9/30/15 and earlier, or ICD-10-CM, 10/1/15 and later) so that it can be submitted on the electronic Medicaid claim(s).

School districts and counties have several options to obtain the necessary information. These options may include: requesting that the ordering practitioner provide the numeric or alphanumeric code, requesting that the attending practitioner ‘translate’ the reason/need wording or ICD-9-CM code to an appropriate ICD-10-CM code, consulting coding books and resources, consulting coding professionals with adequate experience, or contacting physicians or other health professionals.

Medicaid Claims Submission by the Central New York Regional Information Center (CNYRIC) and New York City

The ICD-10-CM value is entered in the same loop and segment as the ICD-9-CM; however, the code is identified as ICD-10-CM using a different qualifier than has been used for ICD-9-CM. The decimal continues to be implied for ICD-10-CM as it is in ICD-9-CM coding. Medicaid claim format requirements can be found in the Medicaid General Institutional Billing Guidelines Manual that is available online at:

https://www.emedny.org/ProviderManuals/AllProviders/General_Billing_Guidelines_Institutional.pdf

Beginning July 28, 2014, the Provider Testing Environment (PTE) will be available through eMedNY for electronic transactions only. The Medicaid trading partners can submit and test claim transitions to eMedNY. Claims in PTE with a date of service prior to October 1, 2014 must contain ICD-9-CM codes; claims with a date of service of October 1, 2014 or after must contain ICD-10-CM codes. For ICD-10-CM testing purposes, future dates of service will be allowed in PTE. Providers who currently receive PDF remittances will be sent a paper remittance in test, as PDF is only available in the production environment. This assures that the claiming standards are met with the ICD-10-CM transaction process. Through the PTE, Medicaid billers, including third party billers, may receive feedback and guidance until testing has been successfully completed.

Claims submitted to Medicaid for services provided on and after **October 1, 2015 must only include the ICD-10-CM** diagnosis code(s). SSHSP Medicaid claims for services provided before October 1, 2015 must only include the ICD-9-CM diagnosis code(s). Claims that contain a combination of both an ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM coding will be denied.

Additional information about eMedNY conversion to ICD-10-CM may be found online at:

<https://www.emedny.org/icd/index.aspx>.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this alert, please contact the Office of Health Insurance Programs at 518-473-2160, your [local Regional Information Center representative](#), or the NYS Education Department, Medicaid Unit at medined@mail.nysed.gov.