

ICD-10: Are you ready?

One of the most significant changes on the horizon of healthcare is the federally mandated transition to the use of ICD-10 diagnosis codes on October 1, 2015. Boston Heart Diagnostics will be prepared to make the transition to ICD-10. Will you?

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has set October 1, 2015 as the compliance date for healthcare providers, health plans, and healthcare clearinghouses to complete their transition to ICD-10.

“ICD-10” is a commonly used abbreviation for the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM), which is the code set used to report clinical diagnoses. ICD-10 will replace the ICD-9-CM code set currently in use. Rather than an annual update to existing codes, ICD-10 is a new set of codes and few diagnoses have an exact match across code sets.

The implementation of the ICD-10 code set requires significant changes to clinical and administrative systems that capture and report diagnosis codes. Ordering clinicians will need to assign—and clinical laboratories must be able to receive—ICD-10 coding information. As the differences between these two code sets are substantial, clinicians and practice management staff are encouraged to actively prepare to meet the compliance deadline.

Boston Heart has identified its systems that will be impacted by the transition to ICD-10 and has developed internal solutions to facilitate a smooth transition. Our certified Professional Coders are trained and available to help our clients understand the level of information required for ICD-10 coding.

What you can do to prepare for ICD-10:

- Assess your current systems or workflows to determine which areas are impacted by the transition to ICD-10
- Identify internal training needs and prepare a cross-walk of your most commonly used diagnosis codes
- Reach out to your EMR and/or practice management system vendors to determine if they are making software changes to accommodate ICD-10 codes
- Reach out to any clearinghouses or billing services you may use to determine if they are making changes to accommodate ICD-10 codes