News Flash - Each Office Visit is an Opportunity. Medicare patients give many reasons for not getting their annual flu vaccination, but the fact is that there are 36,000 flu-related deaths in the United States each year, on average. More than 90% of these deaths occur in people 65 years of age and older. Please talk with your Medicare patients about the importance of getting their annual flu vaccination. This Medicare-covered preventive service will protect them for the entire flu season. And remember, vaccination is important for health care workers too, who may spread the flu to high risk patients. Don’t forget to immunize yourself and your staff. Protect your patients. Protect your family. Protect yourself. Get Your Flu Vaccine - Not the Flu. Remember – Influenza vaccine plus its administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that influenza vaccine is NOT a Part D covered drug. For information about Medicare’s coverage of the influenza vaccine and its administration, as well as related educational resources for health care professionals and their staff, please visit http://www.cms.gov/MLNProducts/Downloads/Flu_Products.pdf and http://www.cms.gov/AdultImmunizations on the CMS website.

MLN Matters® Number: SE1033 Related Change Request (CR) #: N/A
Related CR Release Date: N/A Effective Date: N/A
Related CR Transmittal #: N/A Implementation Date: N/A

Partial Code Freeze Prior to ICD-10 Implementation

Provider Types Affected

This MLN Matters® Special Edition Article affects all Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS) physicians, providers, suppliers, and other entities who submit claims to Medicare contractors for services provided to Medicare beneficiaries in any health setting.

What You Need to Know

At the ICD-9-CM Coordination & Maintenance (C&M) Committee Meeting, held on September 15, 2010, it was announced that the committee had finalized the decision to implement a partial freeze for both ICD-9-CM codes and ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS codes prior to implementation of ICD-10 on October 1, 2013.

Considerable interest was expressed in dramatically reducing the number of annual updates to both coding systems. It was suggested that such a reduction in

Disclaimer

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.
code updates would allow vendors, providers, system maintainers, payers, and educators a better opportunity to prepare for the implementation of ICD-10. Additional public comments on this issue were received prior to this meeting.

The partial freeze will be implemented as follows:

- The last regular annual update to both ICD-9 and ICD-10 code sets will be made on October 1, 2011.
- On October 1, 2012 there will be only limited code updates to both ICD-9-CM and ICD-10 code sets to capture new technology and new diseases.
- On October 1, 2013, there will be only limited code updates to ICD-10 code sets to capture new technologies and diagnoses. There will be no updates to ICD-9-CM on October 1, 2013 as the system will no longer be a HIPAA standard.

On October 1, 2014, regular updates to ICD-10 will begin. The ICD-9 Coordination & Maintenance Committee will continue to meet twice a year during the freeze. At these meetings the public will be allowed to comment on whether or not requests for new diagnosis and procedure codes should be created based on the need to capture new technology or disease. Any code requests that do not meet the criteria will be evaluated for implementation within ICD-10 on or after October 1, 2014, once the partial freeze is ended.

To view the transcript of the meeting, go to: [http://www.cms.gov/ICD9ProviderDiagnosticCodes/03_meetings.asp](http://www.cms.gov/ICD9ProviderDiagnosticCodes/03_meetings.asp) on the CMS website. From there, select the September 15-16, 2010, meeting documents and transcripts from the Downloads section, and then from the ZIP files, select the ‘091510_Morning_Transcript’ file. This section appears on page 4 of the 78-page document.

To view the Summary Report of the meeting, go to: [http://www.cms.gov/ICD9ProviderDiagnosticCodes/03_meetings.asp](http://www.cms.gov/ICD9ProviderDiagnosticCodes/03_meetings.asp) on the CMS website. From there, select the September 15-16, 2010, meeting documents and transcripts from the Downloads section, and then from the ZIP files, select the ‘091510_ICD9_Meeting_Summary_report.pdf’ file. Information on the Code Freeze begins on page 5.

### Additional Information

CMS has developed a variety of educational resources to help Medicare FFS providers understand and prepare for the transition to ICD-10. General information about ICD-10 is available at [http://www.cms.gov/ICD10](http://www.cms.gov/ICD10) on the CMS website.

In addition, the following CMS resources are available to assist in your transition to ICD-10:

Disclaimer
This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.
• **Medicare Fee-for-Service Provider Resources Web Page** - This site links Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS) providers to information and educational resources that are useful for all providers to implement and transition to ICD-10 medical coding in a 5010 environment. As educational materials become available specifically for Medicare FFS providers, they will be posted to this web page. Bookmark [http://www.cms.gov/ICD10/06_MedicareFeeforServiceProviderResources.asp](http://www.cms.gov/ICD10/06_MedicareFeeforServiceProviderResources.asp) and check back regularly for access to ICD-10 implementation information of importance to you. **Note:** Use the links on the left side of the web page to navigate to ICD-10 and 5010 information applicable to your specific interest.

• **CMS Sponsored National Provider Conference Calls** - During the ICD-10 implementation period, CMS will periodically host national provider conference calls focused on various topics related to the implementation of ICD-10. Calls will include a question and answer session that will allow participants to ask questions of CMS subject matter experts. These conference calls are offered free of charge and require advance registration. Continuing education credits may be awarded for participation in CMS national provider conference calls. For more information, including announcements and registration information for upcoming calls, presentation materials and written and audio transcripts of previous calls, please visit [http://www.cms.gov/ICD10/Tel10/list.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.cms.gov/ICD10/Tel10/list.asp#TopOfPage) on the CMS website.

• **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** - To access FAQs related to ICD-10, please visit the CMS ICD-10 web page at [http://www.cms.gov/ICD10/](http://www.cms.gov/ICD10/), select the Medicare Fee-for-Service Provider Resources link from the menu on the left side of the page, scroll down the page to the “Related Links Inside CMS” section and select “ICD-10 FAQs”. Please check the ICD-10 FAQ section regularly for newly posted or updated ICD-10 FAQs.

The following organizations offer providers and others ICD-10 resources:

• **Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI)** [http://www.wedi.org](http://www.wedi.org);


---

**Disclaimer**

This article was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This article may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents.