

Produced by the ICD-10 Integrated Project Team (IPT) & TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) Information Management (IM) division.

## MHS ICD-10 Testing: *Ensuring a Smooth Transition*

The move from ICD-9 to ICD-10 promises long-term benefits in efficiency and accuracy, but it also poses a challenge to prepare information systems for the transition. The conversion to ICD-10 involves in depth consideration of diagnosis and procedure code sets used in clinical and business processes. The complexity of multiple inter-system dependencies requires thorough testing to ensure a smooth transition on the October 1, 2014 compliance date. In order to increase our chances of success, the MHS developed an ICD-10 integrated testing strategy. This Newsflash addresses frequently asked questions and provides additional information with regard to MHS ICD-10 testing.

**425****Days Remaining to  
ICD-10 Conversion**

As of 8/1/2013

---

### **Q: What is the purpose of the ICD-10 testing strategy?**

The MHS ICD-10 Integrated Testing Strategy serves as a common testing related guide for the Program Offices (POs) and Services, and helps ensure software changes for ICD-10 transition are tested sufficiently. As ICD-10 changes cannot be tested in a live MTF environment, we want to ensure that our multiple and dependent changes do not interrupt end user functionality. The testing strategy supports the guiding principles for the ICD-10 transition, which are to implement “minimum essential changes” for transitioning from ICD-9 to ICD-10 and to “do no harm,” meaning don’t break or seriously degrade existing business and clinical processes.

### **Q: Who developed the ICD-10 testing strategy?**

Contributors to the testing strategy include the Program Executive Office (PEO) for clinical systems, the Defense Health Clinical Systems (DHCS) PO (formerly known as Defense Health Information Management Systems (DHIMS)), the Defense Health Services Systems (DHSS) PO, and the ICD-10 IPT, which includes representation from each Service and other TMA Offices. The MHS ICD-10 Integrated Testing Strategy was approved on March 25, 2013 by the Joint Medical Information Systems (JMIS) PEO.

Individual application owners will be responsible for detailing specifics of how they plan to test ICD-10 functionality in their test plans.

### **Q: How will the MHS perform ICD-10 testing?**

The MHS Integrated ICD-10 Testing Strategy specifies that testing will, to the fullest means possible, mimic workflow and production environments to simulate ICD transactions (clinical or financial) and ensure results are accurate. Simulated patient encounters based on the most frequently used ICD codes in the MHS will be utilized



during testing. Subject Matter Experts representing the MHS POs, System Trainers, Services and other Health Information Management (HIM) areas are performing a “First Look” of AHLTA ICD-10 changes and providing feedback to the developers.

In the Fall of 2013, a set of inter-dependent MHS and Service systems will be tested to ensure data flows from/through one system to another accurately and successfully. Due to the complexity of ICD-10 and the inability to test in a live MTF before the compliance date, dedicated test environments are being established for testing.

An ICD-10 Testing Workgroup is being stood up to flesh out the details of how this and any subsequent testing events will be conducted.

**Q: What systems will participate in ICD-10 testing?**

While all systems will be internally tested before deployment, the following systems were selected for the Fall 2013 ICD-10 testing event:

PO/ Service	Systems Selected for Testing
DHCS	AHLTA, AHLTA-Theater, CDR, CHCS, MSAT, TC2, TMDS
DHSS	CCE, M2, MDR, TED
Army	CEO
Navy	ARMS PRO, Champs, EDC, eMED, Medbolt, NMO, SAMS, Webwave
Air Force	BDQAS, CHAS

**Q: When will the ICD-10 testing occur?**

The testing event for the selected information systems is projected to occur late October 2013. Although there are only a few systems selected for this testing, additional testing and monitoring of impacted systems will continue until all identified defects are addressed and fixed to ensure a successful transition.

---

Structured, objective testing is a critical step to ensure that ICD-10 codes can be transmitted, received and processed appropriately so that operations that require the codes will not be interrupted after the transition to ICD-10 on October 1, 2014.

Each Service has an ICD-10 testing Point of Contact (POC). For questions and concerns, please contact [HIPAATCSIMail@tma.osd.mil](mailto:HIPAATCSIMail@tma.osd.mil).

For more information on ICD-10, go to <http://www.tricare.mil/tma/hipaa/icd-10.aspx> and <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/index.html?redirect=/ICD10/>.