

Partial Freeze to ICD-9 and ICD-10 for Smoother Transition

This is the eighth fact sheet in a series and is focused on the freezing of the ICD-9 and ICD-10 code sets. Collectively, the fact sheets will provide information, suggestions, guidance, and checklists to assist you with understanding what you need to do to be HIPAA compliant.

In order to help simplify the transition from ICD-9 to ICD-10, both code sets will undergo a partial freeze. This will reduce maintenance work and give everyone involved more time to work on implementing ICD-10. The ICD-9-CM Coordination & Maintenance Committee solicited public comments on the freeze and possible dates, resulting the final dates outlined below.

When Will the Freeze Occur?

Date	Code Set	Action
October 1, 2011	ICD-9 and ICD-10	Last regular annual updates will occur.
October 1, 2012	ICD-9 and ICD-10	Updates limited to capturing new technology and new diseases.
October 1, 2013	ICD-9	No more updates; code set now closed.
October 1, 2013	ICD-10	Updates limited to capturing new technology and new diseases.
October 1, 2014	ICD-10	Regular annual updates resume.

What Will Happen to Proposals for Changes During the Freeze?

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.

Why Freeze the Code Sets?

For approximately a year and a half, there has been interest expressed by vendors, system maintainers, physicians, other health care providers, payers, and educators to freeze or partially freeze the number of changes to the ICD-9 and ICD-10 code sets during the years leading up to the implementation of ICD-10. The opinion is that reducing the number of changes in the annual updates of the code sets will give everyone involved with the transition more time to work on implementing ICD-10 instead of code maintenance work. The ICD-9-CM Coordination & Maintenance Committee solicited public comments on the freeze and possible dates resulting in the final dates listed above.

What Does This Mean to My Practice?

There will be limited changes to ICD-9 after the October 1, 2011 annual update and the code set will be closed as of October 1, 2013. Only ICD-10 will be accepted for reporting diagnoses for services provided on or after October 1, 2013.

**Visit the AMA's website for more resources for
implementing ICD-10.**

www.ama-assn.org/go/ICD-10