

Timely Topics

PAYMENT AND PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

September 2015

Commercial Payers and the ICD-10-CM Transition

On July 6, 2015, The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the American Medical Association (AMA) issued a joint notice announcing some areas of flexibility in the ICD-10 transition process. See ASA's August 2015 Payment and Practice Management Timely Topic "*CMS/AMA Guidance on the ICD-10 Transition: What Does It Really Mean?*" for more information on the CMS/AMA joint announcement. The CMS/AMA announcement is available at:

[CMS and AMA Announce Efforts to Help Providers Get Ready For ICD-10](#)

[Clarifying Questions and Answers Related to the July 6, 2015 CMS/AMA Joint Announcement and Guidance Regarding ICD-10 Flexibilities](#)

While CMS is allowing for some flexibility in the required level of specificity in reported ICD-10-CM codes during the first year after the October 1, 2015 transition date, it is important to know if your private payers will mirror the CMS policy. The table below summarizes information issued by some private payers:

Health Plan	Following CMS's Flexibility Policy?	Additional Information
Humana	No	<p>Humana is waiting for additional information from CMS regarding the impact of their announcement on Medicare Advantage programs.</p> <p>Claims that do not contain ICD-10 codes after the Oct. 1st implementation date will not be processed and considered non-compliant with HIPAA.</p> <p><u>Humana: ICD-10 Information</u></p>
Aetna	No	<p>With the exception of its Medicare Advantage products, Aetna will not offer the flexibility in the CMS/AMA joint announcement.</p> <p><u>Aetna: Sharing our response to CMS/AMA guidance</u></p> <p><u>Aetna: ICD-10 Frequently Asked Questions</u></p>

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<p>UnitedHealthCare (UHC)</p>	<p>Unknown</p>	<p>UHC asks that all ICD-10 questions be submitted to ICD10questions@uhc.com (Requiring at least 10-15 business days for a response)</p> <p>UHC: ICD-10 Resource Center</p>
<p>Cigna</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>In response to the CMS/AMA Joint Announcement, Cigna states in its document Cigna: Ready, Set, Switch Know your ICD-10 Codes that ICD-10 will be the only acceptable codes beginning Oct. 1, 2015</p> <p>Cigna: ICD-10 Information for Cigna-Healthspring Healthcare Professionals</p>
<p>Kaiser Permanente</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Kaiser Permanente intends to fully comply with the legal requirements put forth by CMS in the ICD-10 mandate. Beginning October 1, 2015, will process claims submitted with ICD-9 codes only for dates of service (outpatient) or dates of discharge (inpatient) prior to October 1, 2015. Will continue to monitor CMS' position closely and will adjust our approach as necessary.</p> <p>Kaiser Permanente ICD-10 Readiness FAQs</p>

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To find a specific payer's take on CMS's new ICD-10 policy, please visit their website. Just as importantly, play close attention to the payments and Explanation of Benefits (EOBs) you receive for services performed on/after October 1 - not only to insure that you are receiving proper payment but also to identify and correct any issues in your claims submissions