



## California Orthopaedic Association

### Workers' Compensation Finalizes New Forms/Regulations Implementing ICD-10 as of October 1.

The below notice confirms that Workers' Compensation carriers are required to accept and providers must start to bill ICD-10 codes as of October 1. DWC is following the timelines of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) with their implementation of ICD-10.

COA Resources that can help with the transition

- [ICD-10 Implementation White Paper](#)
- [Documentation Tips/Templates](#)
- [ICD-10 Reference Cards](#)

Note that CMS and DWC have both also adopted a provision stating that a bill shall not be denied solely due to the level of "specificity" of the ICD-10 code. This will allow some flexibility in the selection of the ICD-10 code as long as the ICD-10 code billed is within the correct family of codes. It is expected that other group health payors will follow this same policy during this transition.

**Please let COA know if you experience payment delays/denials based on improper ICD-10 coding when you are billing within the correct family of codes.**

For those **practices billing Medi-Cal**, be aware that you may experience payment delays in the processing of your Medi-Cal claims. CMS wants providers to bill using the ICD-10 codes, but they have granted California a waiver to allow them to crosswalk ICD-10 codes back to ICD-9 codes in order to adjudicate the claim until they have upgraded their computer system and they are able to handle ICD-10 coding. This crosswalking could result in payment delays.



## N E W S L I N E

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### **DIR, DWC Post Final, Approved Regulations Regarding Transition of Regulations and Forms to ICD-10**

The Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) and its Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) today posted the final approved [regulations](#) regarding transitioning the California workers' compensation system from the ICD-9 system of diagnosis to the ICD-10 system of diagnosis, effective October 1, 2015.

The International Classification of Diseases—10<sup>th</sup> Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) and the International Classification of Diseases —10<sup>th</sup> Revision, Procedure Coding System (ICD-10-PCS) have been adopted for workers' compensation for services rendered and inpatient discharges on or after October 1, 2015, in order to be consistent with the coding system that will be mandatory for most health care providers across the country beginning October 1. ICD-9 codes are not allowed for services rendered, or inpatient discharges, on or after October 1, 2015.

The regulations that have been approved by the Office of Administrative Law include updates to the following forms and related regulations:

- Doctor's First Report of Injury (Form 5021)
- Primary Treating Physician's Progress Report (Form PR-2)
- Primary Treating Physician's Permanent and Stationary Report (Forms PR-3, PR-4)

The updated forms can be found at: <http://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/forms.html>

The regulations provide a "grace period" for use of the revised forms. From October 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, providers may use either the old or new versions of the forms. However, for services rendered on or after October 1, 2015, the ICD-10 code is required, whether the old or new form is used. For services rendered on or after January 1, 2016, the new forms are required.

In recognition of the challenges involved in transitioning to the new coding system, the regulations provide some leeway in relation to the accuracy of the ICD-10 code used. The DWC has adopted a provision stating that a bill shall not be denied solely due to the level of "specificity" of the ICD-10 code. This is similar to the [guidance](#) provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, allowing some flexibility in the selection of the ICD-10 code, as long as the diagnosis code used is a valid ICD-10 code.

The DWC rules requiring use of ICD-10 for medical treatment bills for services on or after October 1, 2015, were adopted last year, and have been updated in the rules posted today. They may be accessed in the [DWC Medical Billing and Payment Guide](#) in the provisions relating to "complete bills."

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' [website](#) contains useful information and resources relating to preparation for the ICD-10 implementation, including a list of valid ICD-10 codes.

The rulemaking documents, text of the regulations and new forms can be found on the approved regulations [page](#).

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"Keeping you Active"

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