



BlueCross BlueShield
of Montana

Our ICD-10 Testing Program: Overview and Results Summary

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Montana (BCBSMT) has completed end-to-end or “round-trip” testing of electronic claims (837 transactions) submitted with ICD-10 codes with a select group of providers. Enrollment in the ICD-10 Testing Program was open to all interested contracted providers who met necessary prerequisites. End-to-end testing began in May 2015 and test claims were accepted through Aug. 14, 2015.

OVERVIEW

The testing process offered providers and their staff the opportunity to practice coding with ICD-10. Participants submitted “twin” claims for testing – one with ICD-9 codes and the other with ICD-10 codes. BCBSMT then processed both claims with the intention of taking all submitted and accepted test claims to a finalized status. For each finalized test claim, BCBSMT returned an 835 Electronic Remittance Advice (835 ERA). Participants also received testing summary results for each set of twin claims.

WHO PARTICIPATED?

BCBSMT testing participants included a number of clearinghouses and 12 providers (five hospitals and seven professional providers).

KEY FINDINGS OF THE TESTING PROGRAM

- 1. BCBSMT can successfully receive, process and return results for claims submitted with ICD-10 codes.** We successfully tested 209 ICD-9 and ICD-10 claims and were able to process claims to completion. This included FEP and local claims, as well as six specialties across three claim types: Inpatient (28%), Outpatient (66%) and Professional (7%).
- 2. Proper end-to-end functionality (837 acceptance to 835 remittance) was confirmed with one intermediary clearinghouse.**
- 3. Coding behaviors seen between pairs of ICD-9 and ICD-10 are consistent with industry findings.** While most test claims showed no variance between ICD-9 and ICD-10, a small percentage of test claims showed differences that may be due to the added specificity of the ICD-10 code set, a different sequence of codes between ICD-9 to ICD-10, or coder interpretation of medical equivalence mappings.

TESTING SUMMARY

The test results were encouraging in light of the limited sample size and the number of providers and clearinghouses involved in the process. The end-to-end testing has indicated that systems at BCBSMT appear to be ready to accept and process ICD-10 claims. The end-to-end testing also indicates that major clearinghouses appear ready to handle ICD-10 claims appropriately. Additionally and according to feedback received during webinars and other outreach activities, participating providers found the testing process to be helpful in determining their readiness for the ICD-10 implementation.