As pediatricians across the country prepare for the October 1, 2015 compliance date for use of International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM), state Medicaid offices are also preparing. Medicaid programs, as Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) covered entities, must comply with the use of ICD-10-CM. As such, all physicians participating in Medicaid must submit claims using valid ICD-10-CM codes for services rendered to Medicaid beneficiaries on or after October 1, 2015.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has been helping state Medicaid programs prepare for the transition to the new code set. CMS has released an ICD-10-CM Training Package for Medicaid offices, conducted onsite and virtual technical assistance, reviewed Medicaid office contingency plans, ensured states are working with Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) on the transition, and reviewed state system overall readiness for the October 1 start date.

In July, CMS and the American Medical Association (AMA) announced in a letter, guidance, and clarifying Q&A that, for the first 12 months of ICD-10-CM use, claims submitted under Medicare Part B with less specific ICD-10-CM diagnostic codes will not be denied as long as the submitted code is from the appropriate family of ICD-10-CM codes. In late August, CMS also announced the creation of an ICD-10-CM Coordination Center within CMS as well as a new ICD-10 Ombudsman, William Rogers, MD.

Chapter Guidance
It is important to note that the announcement from CMS and the AMA only refers to claims reported for Medicare Part B recipients. Medicaid claims should be submitted with the most specific ICD-10-CM code possible for payment. State Medicaid programs cannot claim federal Medicaid matching dollars without the use of valid ICD-10-CM codes. State Medicaid programs are in various stages of readiness for ICD-10-CM, with many states currently conducting end-to-end testing.

AAP chapters are encouraged to learn more about your Medicaid program’s state of preparedness for ICD-10-CM. CMS has created an interactive map as a start; state Medicaid agencies can provide additional information.

The AAP has a variety of ICD-10-CM resources to help pediatricians prepare for the switch, and CMS has recently released the Road to 10, a site to assist small practices in preparing for the transition. Chapters and pediatricians with specific questions on ICD-10-CM are encouraged to contact the AAP Coding Hotline at aapcodinghotline@aap.org. Those with needing consultation on state Medicaid implementation of ICD-10-CM can contact Dan Walter at 847-434-4086 or dwalter@aap.org or Wendy Chill at 847-434-7797 or wchill@aap.org.

The Division of State Government Affairs sends this update to the AAP Executive Committee, District Chairpersons, District Vice Chairpersons, Chapter Presidents, Chapter Vice Presidents, Executive Directors, State Government Affairs Contacts, and other key AAP leaders, members, and staff.