



January 9, 2013

Dear Valued Olympus EndoWorks® Customer,

Thank you for your recent inquiry into EndoWorks ICD-10 readiness.

Certainly, the migration from the current ICD-9 patient health condition coding standard to the ICD-10 standard represents one of the greatest health care information challenges.

As with ICD-9, ICD-10 codes are based on medical record documentation. However, developed nearly 30 years ago, ICD-9 is outdated. It was not designed to accommodate today's new procedures and diagnoses or growing performance tracking needs and therefore must be modernized.

The transition to ICD-10 impacts not only systems but business workflow as well. For instance, ICD-10 codes are longer in length and alphanumeric. This granularity and sheer quantity (14,300 ICD-9 codes to 69,000 ICD-10 codes) is a considerable switch yet will more effectively support higher-quality documentation.

Separate parts

The ICD-10 conversion can be broken into two initiatives.

1. The first project is a change to the electronic health care transaction standard, from Version 4010/4010A to Version 5010. This change accommodates the ICD-10 codes for claim, eligibility inquiries and remittance advance transitions. The deadline for Version 5010 has passed, and is required before the changeover to ICD-10.

EndoWorks is not used for electronic billing/reimbursement and therefore is not affected by the electronic health care transaction standard change.

2. The second is a change to the ICD-10 standard for diagnosis codes.

The Olympus EndoWorks application presently uses ICD-9-CM codes for documenting procedures in endoscopy reports. They are not used for billing or reimbursement purposes which vary widely by insurer. We anticipate ICD-10 codes will be used in the same way.

Final government updates to ICD-9 and ICD-10 code sets are proposed to be completed by October 1, 2013. After this, updates will be frozen to prepare for the October 1, 2014 proposed implementation deadline.

Olympus's response

We realize you are counting on EndoWorks to be compliant and fully functional ahead of the October 1, 2014 deadline and we intend to support your transition.

Olympus has already begun work toward an efficient transition. At this time the EndoWorks application is able to accept seven-digit alphanumeric codes, the format required for ICD-10.

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Presently we are finalizing our market needs assessment and developing a comprehensive approach that will provide for testing prior to the deadline. Although the plan is not yet finalized, we offer the following FAQ section to assist your planning efforts.

1. Q: When will upgrades or new systems be available for testing and implementation?
A: Olympus intends to provide an upgrade or new system for testing after final codes are made available on October 1, 2013 and well before October 1, 2014.
2. Q: Will Olympus accommodate both ICD-9 and ICD-10?
A: Olympus expects that the inclusion of only ICD-9, only ICD-10, or both concurrently will be controlled by editing report and document templates.
3. Q: Will Olympus accommodate ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS?
A: Olympus anticipates supporting ICD-10-CM (diagnoses codes) in the EndoWorks platform. Where applicable, ICD-10-PCS (hospital procedural services codes) will be added.
4. Q: How will the codes be put into operation?
A: Olympus anticipates that the codes will be distributed by our field resources – the same services you're accustomed to. The Olympus software representative will bring the customer system up to date with a new version of the knowledge base. Once amended, the procedure report and document templates will be updated to support both ICD-9 and ICD-10. The ICD codes will now be displayed in new sections of your procedure report. Through template updates, either ICD-9 or ICD-10 or both will be available in your procedure reports. This design will allow the greatest flexibility to our users to both test and transition to ICD-10.
5. Q: How will the ICD-9-CM codes be disabled in the EndoWorks system after the October 1, 2014 deadline?
A: The system generates medical codes based upon the content selected. Any medical codes, ICD-9-CM or other, may be added to or excluded from the physician's report that is generated. By choosing not to generate ICD-9-CM codes to the report, they are effectively "disabled" for any new patient reports created. This approach allows for graceful crossover from one medical code set to another, even allowing for a period of dual use.
6. Q: Where can I find additional information on the ICD-9 to ICD-10 conversion?
A: The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services at <http://www.cms.gov/ICD10/>.
7. Q: Will a customized knowledge base impact my ability to get ICD-10?
A: A review of your customized knowledge base will need to be assessed at the time of installation. At this time we anticipate that most customizations will not impact your ability to receive ICD-10.

Thank you for your continued support of EndoWorks. We value you as a customer and will strive to make this as seamless as possible. Please forward questions to your local Olympus Endoscopy Account Manager, Software Application Specialist or Field Service Engineer.

Sincerely,

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