

# Merge ICD-10 FAQ

November 2013

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## Overview

### **What is the timeline for ICD-10 in the U.S.?**

The deadline for the U.S. to begin using ICD-10 is currently October 1, 2015.

### **How will ICD-10 affect medical practices?**

ICD-10 will significantly expand the number of medical billing codes from approximately 13,000 codes under ICD-9 to more than 68,000 diagnosis codes under ICD-10. Under ICD-10, the code format changes as well. For example, ICD-10 codes can have a varying number of digits and the digit combinations can change (e.g.,###.##, ##.###.##).

Not being prepared for this transition will have serious financial consequences. Not using the proper diagnostic codes in claims will result in decreased reimbursements, delays and denials.

CMS recommends that medical practices take time to prepare for implementation. Not only must new software be installed and tested, but medical practices must provide training for physicians, staff members, and administrators. They will also need to develop new practice policies and guidelines, and update paperwork and forms.

## Merge RIS

### **When will the ICD-10 upgrades be available?**

Merge RIS will be ready for ICD-10 by October 1, 2015. ICD-10 changes are currently planned for the Merge RIS 8.0 release scheduled for Q1 2014, though like all future releases, that is subject to change.

### **I'm using Merge RIS. When can I begin testing?**

Test servers can be set up to code in ICD-10 when the Merge RIS 8.0 release is available. It is important to note that Merge RIS will not have dual coding. Instead, there will be the option to switch the system when you want to start entering charges with ICD-10. A test period before going live is recommended so that staff can learn the new codes before submitting claims.

### **Is there an upgrade cost to support ICD-10?**

Upgrade costs (if any) will be determined closer to the release date, though with sufficient time to allow you to prepare for any additional fees.

### **Will Merge RIS maintain the ICD-9 code set during transition?**

Yes, the ICD-9 code set will be maintained until ICD-10 is live on October 1, 2015.

### **Will Merge offer a crosswalk tool?**

Yes, we will have a crosswalk tool for Merge RIS available to assist in coding ICD-10 procedures.

## Merge Fusion RIS

### **When will the ICD-10 upgrades be available?**

In the first quarter of 2014.

### **When can we begin testing?**

In early 2014.

### **Is there an upgrade cost to support ICD-10?**

Upgrade costs will be covered under the existing support and maintenance contract. Hardware costs are not yet known, though there may be some professional services required.

### **Will Merge Fusion RIS maintain the ICD-9 code set during transition?**

Currently, Merge is planning to maintain the ICD-9 code set during transition.

### **Will Merge offer a crosswalk tool for Merge Fusion RIS?**

Yes, we will have a crosswalk tool available for Fusion RIS to assist in coding ICD-10 procedures.

## Merge Financials

### **When will the ICD-10 upgrades be available?**

Merge Financials will be ready for ICD-10 by October 1, 2015. The ICD-10 changes are being coded in the next major release of the product, version 7.0, which is scheduled to be released in Q4 2013.

### **When can we begin testing?**

When Merge Financials 7.0 is released, users will be able to turn ICD-10 coding on in live or test servers. Merge Financials will have dual coding of charges capability. That means, at any time, users will be able to select ICD-9 or ICD-10 coding options.

### **Is there an upgrade cost to support ICD-10?**

Upgrade costs (if any) will be determined closer to the release date, though with sufficient time to allow you to prepare for any additional fees.

### **Will Merge Financials maintain the ICD-9 code set during transition?**

Yes, the ICD-9 code set will be maintained until ICD-10 is live on October 1, 2015.

### **Will Merge offer a crosswalk tool?**

Yes, we will have a crosswalk tool available for Merge Financials to assist in coding ICD-10 procedures.

## Sentinel

### **When will the ICD-10 upgrades be available?**

Sentinel will be ready for ICD-10 by October 1, 2015. The ICD-10 changes are being coded in the next major release of the product, version 9.0, which was released in Q3 2013.

### **When can we begin testing?**

When Sentinel 9.0 is released, users will be able to turn ICD-10 coding on in live or test servers. Sentinel will have dual coding of charges capability. That means, at any time, users will be able to select ICD-9 or ICD-10 coding options.

### **Is there an upgrade cost to support ICD-10?**

Upgrade costs (if any) will be determined closer to the release date, though with sufficient time to allow you to prepare for any additional fees.

### **Will Sentinel maintain the ICD-9 code set during transition?**

Yes, the ICD-9 code set will be maintained until ICD-10 is live on October 1, 2015.

### **Will Merge offer a crosswalk tool?**

Yes, we will have a crosswalk tool available for Sentinel to assist in coding ICD-10 procedures.

## Merge Cardio

### **When will the ICD-10 upgrades be available?**

ICD utilization for Merge Cardio does not require a formal release. Configuration by Merge can be requested at any time. Merge Cardio version 10.0 will allow sites to do their own configuration.

### **When can we begin testing?**

Testing can be scheduled at any time after configuration is complete.

### **Is there an upgrade cost to support ICD-10?**

Customers with service agreements will receive the upgrade to Merge Cardio version 10.0 at no additional software charge. Training on the Reporting Configuration Tool is an additional charge. Customers not choosing to do their own configuration will need to contract with Merge Professional Services. Please contact your Merge sales representative for additional information.

### **Will Merge Cardio maintain the ICD-9 code set during transition?**

If requested, yes.

### **Will Merge offer a crosswalk tool for Merge Cardio?**

No.

## Merge Hemo™

### **When will the ICD-10 upgrades be available?**

In Merge Hemo version 10.0, the user will be able to select the desired ICD-10 code and export the code from Merge Hemo.

### **When can we begin testing?**

Testing can begin when the software is generally available.

### **Is there an upgrade cost to support ICD-10?**

Customers with service contracts will get Merge Hemo version 10.0 as part of the service agreement at no additional software charge. There is a charge for non-contract customers.

### **Will Merge Hemo maintain the ICD-9 code set during transition?**

Merge Hemo does not officially support ICD-9 today.

### **Will Merge offer a crosswalk tool for Merge Hemo?**

No.

## Merge OrthoEMR

### **When will the ICD-10 upgrades be available?**

Merge OrthoEMR 5.0 is ready for ICD-10 and has been released on June 23, 2014. This version is now available for all existing and new clients.

### **Is there an upgrade cost to support ICD-10?**

Merge OrthoEMR utilizes Intelligent Medical Objects, a third party terminology engine and services to provide smart crosswalk from ICD-9 to ICD-10. There is additional subscription cost for this third party component.

### **Will Merge OrthoEMR maintain the ICD-9 code set during transition?**

Yes, the ICD-9 code set will be maintained until ICD-10 is live on October 1, 2015.

## Merge LIS

### **When will the ICD-10 upgrades be available?**

Merge LIS, released on June 23, 2014 is ready with ICD-10 and is now available.

### **When can we begin testing?**

You can begin testing using Merge LIS 4.0, as soon as you schedule for upgrade.

### **Is there an upgrade cost to support ICD-10?**

Upgrade costs (if any) will be determined closer to the release date, though with sufficient time to allow you to prepare for any additional fees.

### **Will Merge LIS maintain the ICD-9 code set during transition?**

Yes, ICD9 is being maintained as well.

### **Will Merge offer a crosswalk tool for Merge LIS?**

The crosswalk has been included in Merge LIS 4.0, using GEMS.

