

August 2015

# Regulatory Updates

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## ***Independence Administrators is here to help you comply with today's regulations***

*Regulatory Updates* is an online news series designed to help you understand pertinent regulatory requirements and how they may affect your plan and plan members, and help you make informed decisions.

### ICD-10 update

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) requires that all entities covered by HIPAA implement ICD-10 medical coding by October 1, 2015. AmeriHealth Administrators is updating its systems and interfaces to be compliant with ICD-10 by October 1, 2015.

**What is ICD-10?** At a high level, ICD-10 is the tenth revision of the World Health Organization's International Classification of Diseases (ICD). It is used to classify diseases and causes of illness on medical records, claims, and other vital information by providers, hospitals, health insurers, and others involved in providing or paying for medical care.

In the U.S., we have been using the ninth revision of the ICD codes. HHS now requires the move from ICD-9 to ICD-10 code sets for services performed after September 30, 2015.

#### **How is Independence Administrators preparing for ICD-10 compliance?**

Independence Administrators is ready for the changeover and will be compliant with ICD-10 by October 1, 2015. We have analyzed all of our systems affected by ICD-10, and we are completing and testing any needed updates to ready those systems for full ICD-10 compliance. We are reaching out to HIPAA-designated trading partners and third party vendors to ensure they will be ready. And we have been communicating with our network health care providers to help ensure awareness and compliance. Finally, all of our associates are being trained at the necessary level.

**What will happen if a doctor or hospital is not prepared for ICD-10?** Provider networks, such as Independence Administrators', have been communicating with network hospitals and doctors for more than a year to help ensure they are aware of the upcoming change.

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However, if a health care provider sends a claim using the old ICD codes for services starting October 1, 2015, the claim will be rejected, in line with HHS guidelines. The claim will be denied to the provider, stating that they need to resubmit with the new ICD-10 codes.

## Same sex marriage is now the law of the land

Same-sex marriage became the law of the land following the United States Supreme Court's historic ruling on June 26, that state laws prohibiting same-sex marriages are unconstitutional.

The decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in "*Obergefell v. Hodges*" overturned same-sex marriage bans in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee — 4 of 13 states that had same-sex marriage bans prior to the ruling. While four states were cited in the case, the ruling overturned the laws that banned same-sex marriage in all 13 states.

The Supreme Court's decision means that same-sex couples have the same constitutional right to marry, and same-sex marriages performed in one state must be recognized by other states. Employer groups may want to examine their eligibility definition and benefit structure based on the latest ruling.

## Agencies issue final rule on SBCs

The Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and Treasury recently published the [final regulation](#) amending a December 30, 2014, proposed rule governing Summaries of Benefits and Coverage (SBCs) (80 Fed. Reg. 34292). This regulation does not finalize the SBC template and other documents, which are expected to be finalized in 2016. Additional information is available in [FAQ XXIV](#).

## For more information

To learn more about how Independence Administrators can support you in complying with the requirements of the Affordable Care Act and other relevant regulations, **please contact your Independence Administrators account representative.**

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### Resources:

Previous alert topics on the [Affordable Care Act](#)  
Previous issues of [Regulatory Updates newsletters](#)  
Independence Administrators' [health care reform page](#)

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