

Updated ICD-10 Prior Authorization (PA) Process for MaineCare Services

The PA process has changed since MaineCare's last communication on the subject. Initial date of service for a PA is no longer used to determine if ICD-9 or ICD-10 codes are required on the PA. PA submission date determines which code set is required on a PA. Please take note of the changes in the message below.

With the upcoming transition to ICD-10 codes on October 1, 2015, changes will be necessary in the PA process.

You can expect the following changes to the PA process due to ICD-10 implementation:

- Any PA request must contain ICD-10 codes if the **submission date** is on, or after, October 1, 2015.
- The PA request must contain ICD-9 codes if the **submission date** is on, or prior to, September 30, 2015.
- Existing PAs with open service authorizations will be accepted for services provided on, or after, October 1, 2015, until authorized units are used.
 - o One exception applies to changing the PA expiration date for out-of-state emergency hospital admissions. MaineCare review staff are able to extend the PA end date on an approved out-of-state emergency inpatient PA.
 - o For existing PAs that span across the October 1, 2015 ICD-10 implementation date, MaineCare review staff will continue the existing process to add more units or add new service codes to the PA, as required, but the PA end date cannot be changed. A new PA request must be submitted for additional services after the existing PA is completed, and all authorized units are used.

Examples:

- A PA is submitted on September 1, 2015. **This scenario would require ICD-9 codes on the request.**
- A PA is submitted on September 30, 2015 for twelve services. **This scenario would require ICD-9 codes, as the PA was submitted on, or before, September 30, 2015.**
- A PA is submitted on October 1, 2015 for twelve services. **This scenario would require ICD-10 codes as the PA was submitted on, October 1, 2015.**
- A PA is submitted on January 12, 2015 for twelve services. On October 1, 2015, five services remain open on the PA. **You can continue to utilize the PA for services after October 1, 2015, until the services expire. Any claims for services on, or after, October 1, 2015 need to be submitted with ICD-10 codes. You do not need a new PA until all services are utilized.**

For more information about how ICD-10 will affect prior authorizations, please contact Provider Services at: 1-866-690-5585. Please send questions about ICD-10 to MaineCare's [ICD-10 email box](#).