



To: IPAs, PCPs, and Specialists
From: IEHP – Provider Relations
Date: September 29, 2016
Subject: CMS News Effective October 1, 2016

EXPIRATION OF MEDICARE FLEXIBILITIES

(Clarification from CMS 08/18/2016)

The ICD-10 flexibilities expire on **October 1, 2016**. CMS advised that there will be no extensions or phase-in period, since Providers should already be coding to the highest level of specificity. ICD-10 flexibilities were solely for the purpose of contractors performing medical review so that they would not deny claims solely for the specificity of the ICD-10 code as long as there is no evidence of fraud.

As of **October 1, 2016**, Providers will be required to code to accurately reflect the clinical documentation in as much specificity as possible, as per the required coding guidelines. Some examples below:

Prior 10/1/2016	Effective 10/1/2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E11.69 Diabetes with other specified complications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E10.321- through E10.37X- Diabetes Type 1 with diabetic retinopathy must state the laterality of right, left, bilateral • E11.321- through E11.37X- Diabetes Type 2 with diabetic retinopathy must state the laterality of right, left, bilateral • E11.69 must have the other complications documented and coded
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F32.9 Major depressive disorder, single episode, unspecified • F33.9 Major depressive disorder, recurrent, unspecified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F32.- and F33.- must document and code severity in order to code to the highest specificity

References:

- <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/coding/icd10/providerresources.html>
- <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/2017-ICD-10-CM-and-GEMs.html>

As a reminder, all communications sent by IEHP can also be found on our Provider portal at the following address: <https://ww3.iehp.org/en/providers/correspondence/>.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the IEHP Provider Relations Team at (909) 890-2054.