

Focused on preparing for the future

A big focus within CenCal Health this year has been on preparing for the future. With Healthcare reform right around the corner and big implementations like the changes to HIPAA X12 files (5010) and ICD-10 coming soon, planning has been a very big priority.

A goal for CenCal Health is to ease the transition on these types of challenges for our submitters. The easier it is on our Providers, the easier it will be on our Members.

The HIPAA 5010 project has a due date of January 1st, 2012. This project concerns electronic data file formats required by HIPAA and will have an impact on many of CenCal Health's providers. CenCal Health is on schedule to be ready to accept a HIPAA 5010 files on 1/1/2012 for all of the file types that CenCal Health currently accepts now.

This is a challenge that all Healthcare providers that exchange data electronically will have to overcome. During the early portions of 2012, CenCal Health will still be accepting HIPAA 4010 file submissions, which is the previous HIPAA version that the industry utilizes today, for our submitters that could not make the deadline. CenCal Health's plan is to eventually phase out the option for 4010 submissions so submitters will be encouraged to migrate to the 5010 file types.

ICD-10 conversion must be completed by October 1st, 2013. Conversion to the ICD-10 (diagnosis codes) code set is a very big project that has been compared in size to the 'Year 2000' (Y2K) issue years ago. Changing diagnosis codes, the codes that define the health state of the patients is very difficult due to the fact that they are typically used in such a variety of ways. Locating these codes and transitioning them from ICD-9, the version the industry uses today, to ICD-10 codes will be very

challenging. The date for this cutover is set by CMS on October 1st, 2013.

An ICD-9 to ICD-10 conversion tool will be added to CenCal Health's website as an attempt to assist with converting ICD-9 codes to ICD-10. The challenge is that one ICD-9 code may have many ICD-10 equivalents and this tool will assist a user in making the choice.

Do more with less. With the U.S. economy in the state it's in, then add California's budget situation on top, CenCal Health has been challenged to do more with less (again). CenCal Health is attempting to accomplish this with the use of technology.

CenCal Health has added functionality to our website to enable the Providers easier access to information that was, in the past, provided only via mail from CenCal Health.

Also, CenCal Health is utilizing software like WebEx, which enables employees to have meetings over the internet, which will allow viewing of PC presentations, voice participation, and remote access via laptop PCs or Smartphones. This type of technology improves efficiency and cuts down travelling costs.



Left to right: Jose Dominguez, Alan Scholl, Edna Cruz, Greg Brown, Alex Yurcek