

## **The ICD-10 Transition was October 1, 2015 – How Did Georgia Do?**

October 1, 2015 was the go-live date for the transition to new ICD-10 code sets (CM - [diagnosis] and PCS [procedure] codes). With all the hard work that went into getting ready, you probably have been wondering how the transition went.

“The transition to ICD-10 has been smooth and successful,” said Argartha Russell, DCH’s Medicaid Director of Policy and Provider Services. “We had some challenges with providers learning and billing the new ICD-10 diagnosis codes, especially unspecified codes, but the vast majority of the providers are getting paid. These early challenges have been mostly resolved as well.”

The success of the ICD-10 project had to do with intense preparation, cooperation, and collaboration with dedicated staff resources assigned from DCH and Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE). Post-go live troubleshooting of any ICD-10 claim inquiries are being addressed by an ICD-10 Joint Triage Team (JTT) consisting of staff from HPE and DCH’s policy specialists, clinicians, certified coders and ICD-10 consultants along with leadership’s support from both DCH and HPE. The JTT will continue until the end of December.

By go-live October 1, 2015, Georgia Medicaid wanted to ensure that over 75 percent of the submitted claims would pay with the new ICD-10 diagnosis codes. The learning curve for providers, billers and coders is huge. DCH is encouraging providers to use ICD-10 reference guides and other mapping resources to determine the appropriate ICD-10 diagnosis code to bill. The focus is for staff’s continued involvement on the JTT to iron any kinks out, and address when to bypass ICD-10 system logic and audits and exceptions, and when to relax some of the new ICD-10 edits.