DSM-5 FAQs
April 9, 2015

As we move closer to the October 1st formal transition to ICD-10 there are often questions about the relationship between the ICD-10 code set and the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, Fifth Edition (DSM-5). The DSM-5 serves as the most widely accepted tool for psychiatric diagnosis in the United States. Below are two of the most frequently asked questions about the DSM-5 and links to both the American Psychiatric Association (APA) as well as DSM5.org.

**In current practice by the mental health field, many clinicians use the DSM-IV in diagnosing mental disorders. As of May 19, 2013, the DSM-5 was released. Can these clinicians continue current practice and use the DSM-IV and DSM-5 diagnostic criteria?**

The Introductory material to the DSM-IV and DSM-5 code set indicates that the DSM-IV and DSM-5 are “compatible” with the ICD-9-CM diagnosis codes. The updated DSM-5 codes are cross walked to both ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM. As of October 1, 2015, the ICD-10-CM code set is the HIPAA adopted standard and required for reporting diagnosis for dates of service on and after October 1, 2015.

Neither the DSM-IV nor DSM-5 is a HIPAA adopted code set and may not be used in HIPAA standard transactions. It is expected that clinicians may continue to base their diagnostic decisions on the DSM-IV/DSM-5 criteria, and, if so, to crosswalk those decisions to the appropriate ICD-9-CM and, as of October 1, 2015, ICD-10 CM codes. In addition, it is still perfectly permissible for providers and others to use the DSM-IV and DSM-5 codes, descriptors and diagnostic criteria for other purposes, including medical records, quality assessment, medical review, consultation, and patient communications.

Dates when the DSM-IV may no longer be used by mental health providers will be determined by the maintainer of the DSM-IV/DSM-5 code set, the American Psychiatric Association, http://www.dsm5.org

**Can behavioral health providers use DSM-5 codes for the purpose of claiming?**

No. DSM codes (current, past and pending) are not HIPAA compliant; therefore DSM codes are invalid for HIPAA claims transactions or any other HIPAA transaction. ICD-10 is the only standard approved by HIPAA for submission of patient diagnosis including behavioral health and dental diagnosis.

**Additional Links:**

- APA - [http://www.psychiatry.org/practice/dsm/dsm5](http://www.psychiatry.org/practice/dsm/dsm5)