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## **International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Division (ICD-10 Update Briefing)**

August 8, 2014

NetCare Life & Health Insurance Company announces the following information and update on the implementation of the ICD-10 program.

On April 2, 2014, President Obama signed H.R. 4320, Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014, which delays scheduled cuts in physician payments under Medicare and prohibits the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) from enforcing any mandate to switch to the newer ICD-10 system until October 1, 2015.

With respect to the sustainable growth rate (SGR) rule, the new law means the potential 24% cut or decrease to physician reimbursement under Medicare's SGR payment formula will not occur, and instead, physicians will continue to receive the 0.5% increase in fee-for-service (FFS) reimbursement through December 31, 2014 with no additional change in rates from January 1, 2015 through March 31, 2015.

The provision related to the ICD-10 states that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) cannot adopt the ICD-10 Code set as the standard until at least October 1, 2015 – a year after the October 1, 2014, implementation date for which the industry has been preparing. We are awaiting specific CMS guidance on how the ICD-10 provision will be implemented and will provide updates when available.

NetCare will continue to work with various public and private sector entities and agencies, such as CMS along with our industry partners to implement CMS guidance on ICD-10 and related issues. We will continue to provide updated information as additional regulatory guidance is provided and issued.

We appreciate your continued patience and support.

Please feel free to contact our Provider Network Department at 472-3610 should you have any questions or need further information.

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