

CMS to Hospitals: Start ICD-10 Planning and Preparation Now

October 14, 2008

Today HIM directors, coding managers and other hospital leaders received some valuable advice for managing the transition to ICD-10—start preparing now.

In a conference call sponsored by The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), presenters urged the healthcare community to begin preparations before the ICD-10 implementation date is announced. "Don't wait for the final rule because you are wasting precious time," encouraged presenter Nelly Leon-Chisen, RHIA, director, Central Office on ICD-9-CM, American Hospital Association.

Presenters from CMS, the American Hospital Association (AHA), the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics provided advice to help hospitals tackle the two initial priorities for the transition to ICD-10: education and information systems.

Education

"We recognize that different segments of the industry, people with different roles, are going to need different types of education," stated Sue Bowman, RHIA, CCS, director, Coding Policy and Compliance, AHIMA. "So we are looking at a targeted education model for various ICD-10 audience segments."

Hospitals should provide executive level leaders, care providers, and data managers with appropriate training, explained Bowman. This training will differ from the in-depth ICD-10 training for HIM professionals.

Based on field testing, AHA and AHIMA developed preliminary training recommendations for professional coders including:

- In-depth training three to six months prior to the implementation date
- More intensive, detailed ICD-10-CM and PCS training during full-day sessions

Information Systems

While training coders and staff on ICD-10 coding can wait until a few months before implementation, planning for changes to information systems is an urgent priority. Coding and reimbursement systems will be a main component of ICD-10 adoption, but the full impact of this change will affect the complete hospital technology infrastructure to accommodate useful code detail.



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Leaders tasked with preparing a hospital for ICD-10 should begin by creating a cross-functional team that can address and prepare for the clinical, financial, and information systems needs. HIM directors and coding managers are key catalysts in this team's success.

First the ICD-10 project management team conducts a systems inventory. The team identifies software programs and databases needing updates prior to the implementation date, and programs them into the project plan.

Most healthcare information systems companies are already preparing their products to be ICD-10 ready prior to the implementation date. However, wise HIM and IT managers can avoid painful surprises by understanding vendors' plans and integrating them into their own.

Other tactics include:

- Identify key stakeholders throughout the facility or health system
- Assess the impact of ICD-10 on systems and personnel
- Formulate a strategic implementation plan based on the impact assessment
- Roll each tactic up to "go-live" date goals
- Secure ICD-10 budget commitments and C-level support
- Identify necessary computer hardware changes
- Identify new documentation demands and changes
- Identify historical data needing ICD-10 conversion
- Coordinate employee training plans with information systems plans

"So If you have not already done so, get your cross-functional teams started," coaches Leon-Chisen. "We do have time. You don't have to rush, and buy full-blown ICD-10-CM and PCS training at this point. There will be time to train the coding professionals."

Now is the time to look at the big picture of your information systems architecture and prepare. Your diligence and foresight this year will translate into ICD-10 success.

Did you miss the conference call?

Transcripts and slides from this conference call will be available at:



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http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD10/07_Sponsored_Calls.asp#TopOfPage

Key ICD-10 links

www.3mhis.com/ICD-10

<http://www.ahima.org/icd10/index.asp>

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