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ICD-10 Tips, Trends and Transition Talk at AHIMA Convention

Experts Help Healthcare Leaders Make the Most of Delay

CHICAGO – Sept. 24, 2014 – The recent confirmation by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) that Oct. 1, 2015 – just a little more than a year from now – is the official compliance date for ICD-10-CM/PCS provided the healthcare community with the certainty needed to move forward with implementation.

At AHIMA's 86th Annual Convention and Exhibit in San Diego Sept. 27-Oct. 2, attendees will have the opportunity to hear from leading experts on ICD-10 implementation processes, communication with physicians and best practices for different size organizations.

"Although the delay was disappointing, the benefits of ICD-10 are too important for us to become discouraged," said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA. "The greater specificity of ICD-10 will not only benefit population and public health and research, but will maximize the return on investment in initiatives such as electronic health records, meaningful use and performance measures. This will ultimately lead to what everyone wants – improved patient care and reduced costs."

AHIMA has launched an ICD-10 advocacy, outreach and education campaign to ensure stakeholders are well informed regarding the importance of the ICD-10 transition and the impact of a delay. AHIMA is committed to being a [resource](#) for all stakeholders and is continuing to work with a number of public sector agencies along with partners such as the [Coalition for ICD-10](#).

A critical issue for a successful transition is how best to communicate with and inform a medical staff on the coding and documentation benefits of ICD-10. On Sept. 29, AHIMA will feature a panel discussion with surgeons called, "[Diagnosis and Assessment of ICD-10: A Surgeon's Perspective](#)." The panel is moderated by Dr. Garry Huff, MD, CCS, CCDS, AHIMA-approved ICD-10 Trainer, president/CEO of Huff DRG Review Services. All the physician panelists were recently trained on ICD-10-PCS and will bring insights and suggestions on the communication and educational process.

"Physicians need to be engaged with specific examples that affect their practice and patients," Huff said. "The surgeons on the panel will highlight the optimal way to elicit physician cooperation to effectively handle documentation issues."

Other presenters also will emphasize the importance of working effectively with medical staff.

“I like to appeal to the scientist and talk about how when we look at certain patients, we can almost immediately sense the type of health problems they have or will develop. ICD-10 will allow us to have enough data to start analyzing patterns and linkages between conditions,” said Marion G. Kruse, RN, MBA, AHIMA Approved ICD-10 Trainer, a senior managing director of clinical services for Precyse.

Kruse will present, “[How to Survive and Thrive In the New World of ICD-10](#),” on Oct. 1. In addition to showing how hospitals can use the ICD-10 delay to their advantage, they will highlight how this is the perfect time to take a comprehensive approach to clinical documentation improvement (CDI).

“As an industry, we need to get out of the mentality that CDI is one CC or MCC and-the case is done,” Kruse said. “It’s an ongoing process because healthcare quality is measured by efficiency and effectiveness and risk adjustment or showing how sick your patients are is the key.”

Nick van Terheyden, MD, chief medical informatics officer for Nuance Communications, said that the greater specificity of ICD-10 codes, provides a prime opportunity to innovate and engage physicians in the CDI process. In his Sept. 30 presentation “[Game of Documentation: Winter is Coming -- Surviving ICD-10](#),” van Terheyden will outline innovative approaches to CDI improvement that do not require additional staffing but capitalize on scalable technological solutions.

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About AHIMA

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) represents more than 71,000 educated health information management and health informatics professionals in the United States and around the world. AHIMA is committed to promoting and advocating for high quality research, best practices and effective standards in health information and to actively contributing to the development and advancement of health information professionals worldwide. AHIMA’s enduring goal is quality healthcare through quality information.

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