ICD-10, Implementation, Training and Certification

October 1, 2014 will be here before we know it – training staff and organizing the implementation effort has left a number of practices asking where I begin. October 2014 is the date that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has set for healthcare entities to complete their transition from ICD-9-CM to ICD-10 code sets. These code sets, known as the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition diagnosis and procedure codes, or ICD-10, will include codes for new procedures and diagnoses that improve the quality of information available for quality improvement and payment purposes. Developed by the World Health Organization in 1993, ICD-10 is already in use nearly worldwide. ICD-10-CM is a far superior system to ICD-9-CM and the will codes increase from around 14,000 to about 68,000.

ICD-10 implementation will accommodate a number of new procedures and diagnoses unaccounted for in the ICD-9 code set and allow for greater specificity of diagnosis-related groups and preventive services. This transition will lead to improved accuracy in reimbursement for medical services, fraud detection, and historical claims and diagnoses analysis for the health care system. ICD-10 will have far-reaching positive effects on quality issues, including the use of specific reasons for patient non-compliance and detailed procedure information by degree of difficulty.

ICD-10-CM/PCS consists of two parts:

— ICD-10-CM - The diagnosis classification system developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for use in all U.S. health care treatment settings.

— ICD-10-PCS - The procedure classification system developed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for use in the U.S. currently designated to replace Volume 3 of ICD for inpatient hospital settings ONLY directed towards allocation of hospital services. CPT® remains the procedure coding standard for providers regardless of whether the provider services are provided in the inpatient or outpatient setting.

As with any project of this magnitude, the scheduled implementation date has experienced some delays the conversion process, however, continues to move forward. What is clear is that the actual work to successfully transition to the new system should already be well underway before the full implementation date.
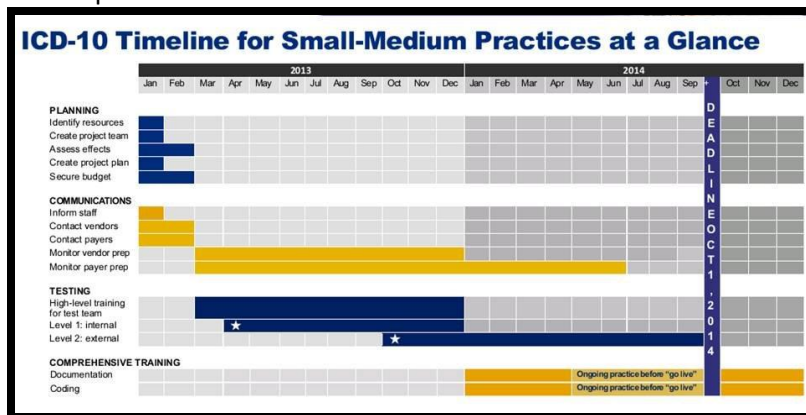
ICD-10 Implementation

Implementation Steps and Guidelines

While the final date of implementation was delayed by one year, it is clear is that preparations should not stop! Everyone in the office needs to familiarize themselves with the new coding system now. Overall, the 6 Stages of ICD-10 implementation include:

— Planning
— Communication and Awareness
— Assessment
— Operational Implementation
— Testing
— Transition

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has published numerous beneficial resources on their website to help health care professionals acquaint themselves with ICD-10, including the timeline chart below for ICD-10 implementation.

Source: http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/ICD-10ImplementationTimelines.html, January 2013 CMS. ICD-10 Implementation Timelines.

We advise providers to develop an implementation strategy that includes assessment of impact on your office, a detailed timeline, and budget.

Seminar/Webinar Training – Organizing the Implementation Effort

ICD-10 will change everything and require a significant effort for providers and their staffs. The first step in preparing for ICD-10 is implementation of processes. This educational can be done on site or as a webinar and will cover

Where to Begin – Organizing the Implementation Effort ☐ Understanding the Information Technology Impact ☐   What Needs to Change – Assessing Other Key Areas of Impact ☐ Identifying Documentation Challenges ☐ Building Your ICD-10 Action Plan ☐   Budgeting for ICD-10 ☐ Planning Training Approaches and Resources ☐ Introduction to ICD-10 Coding and Characteristics – Crosswalks and Mapping

ICD-10 Training and Certification

Training is available in different formats to meet physicians and their staff needs these courses offer both CEU's and CME credits:

Boot Camps - Face to Face - Class Room ICD-10 Training

This expert-led, interactive program covers all aspects of ICD-10-CM/PCS–ranging from the fundamentals to the complex. A wide array of education tracks focus on advanced and specialty settings ICD-10-CM/PCS training, applying guidelines to coding scenarios, analyzing the impact of ICD-10-CM/PCS on data management and documentation, and coding workforce re-entry. Coding and billing staff will need to not only learn ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS, but also be prepared for the increased clinical specificity required by the new code set. Whatever your training needs, this program will help you be better prepared for implementation and move your ICD-10 skills to the next level.

This training includes 1, 2 or 3-day comprehensive training led by a certified instructor:
— 16 CME's and CEUs Approved
— ICD-10 format and structure Code Set Training
— Complete in-depth ICD-10 guidelines
— Nuances found in the new coding system with coding tips
— Hands-on ICD-10 coding exercises
— Specialty Specific Code Set Training

Physicians and Midlevel Training:

One of the largest problems following the October 1, 2014 implementation date for ICD-10 will be documentation insufficient to support the specificity required for the new ICD-10 code sets. A recent study noted 62 percent of physicians cited managing ICD-10 documentation as a "major concern".

This training includes:

We will evaluate your current documentation in preparation for ICD-10 and identify the deficiencies and education needed to improve. This training will consist of:
— Help to avoid denied or un-billable claims.
— Help to reduce the risk of interruption in revenue.
— Review top 50 codes for your practice/specialty
— Learn the ICD-10 structure and guidelines
— Review of case examples
— We will review 10 of your notes pre-training (baseline) chart note evaluations.
— We will review 10 of your notes post-training (final) chart note evaluations