

ICD10 CODING & IMPLEMENTATION

Updated for new October 1, 2014 proposed deadline



The American Institute of Healthcare Compliance has offered programs to help prepare health care providers for ICD10 implementation since 2010. Our Customer Service staff, Career Counselor and ICD10 Training Department has been receiving various questions from our membership. We would like to share with you the responses to questions asked most frequently.

If you have questions about ICD10 implementation which cannot be answered from the information below - please contact. Ask for an appointment with one of our ICD10 trainers or one of our talented Career Counselors! Click on the icon below for our physical address, Email address and phone numbers!



Question 1 *CMS announced a proposed new implementation date for ICD10. What is the new date and what does this mean for providers who have been working diligently on this transition?*

Response: CMS announced on Monday, April 9, 2012 the proposed delay for ICD10 implementation from October 1, 2013 to October 1, 2014. [Click Here](#) for a copy of the press release. The announcement was included in a proposed rule that would also require health plans to use a unique health plan identifier. This change, which would be required under HIPAA, is one of several “administrative simplification provisions” called for in the Affordable Care Act that CMS will announce over the next several months.

Although we have an additional year - all HIPAA covered entities have much to do to stay on track to meet additional demands in the proposed rule.

AHIMA has voiced concerns about delaying ICD10, indicating a delay would hamper current implementation efforts and prevent providers from using a superior code set for improving administrative operations. [Click Here](#) for more AHIMA information on this topic.

Question 2 *Please give more information about new "identifiers" as part of this ICD10 transition?*

Response: Currently health plans can be identified using a wide range of identifiers which can cause healthcare providers time-consuming problems “such as misrouting of transactions, rejection of transactions due to insurance identification errors, and difficulty determining patient eligibility,” according to the CMS press release. The rule simplifies the administrative process for providers by proposing that health plans have a unique identifier of a standard length and format to facilitate routine use in computer systems. This will allow provider offices to automate and simplify their processes, particularly when processing bills and other transactions.

[Click Here](#) to review the press release of April 9, 2012 specifically addressing the adoption of a standard for a unique health plan identifier (HPID), other entity identifier (OEID) and an addition to the National Provider Identifier (NPI) requirements.



Question 3 *I can't find this new proposed rule - is there a link to obtain a copy?*

Response: Yes - The proposed rule may be viewed at www.ofr.gov/inspection.aspx. Comments are due 30 days after publication in the Federal Register.

Question 4 *Does ICD-10 get updated annually as does ICD-9? I heard codes will be "frozen" for a period to allow for training.*

Response: CMS states there will be a "Partial Code Freeze for ICD-9-CM and ICD-10". The frozen period is likely to be adjusted due to the new proposed extension.

[Click Here](#) to obtain the pdf announcement from CMS which is likely to be revised in the near future.

Question 5 *What is the latest news regarding CMS' "intent to delay"?*

Response: CMS continues to post October 1, 2013 as the ICD10 implementation deadline. The government is reviewing the timeline, has extended Version 5010 implementation another 3 months, but there is no expectation of an extension or significant delay for ICD10. [Click Here](#) for the April 2011 Power Point Presentation from CMS.

AHIMA, AHA and CMS worked together to create the ICD-10-PCS version for use in the United States. Here is a quote from AHIMA: "This is a promise from CMS to examine the timeline, not to change it," said Dan Rode, MBA, CHPS, FHFMA, vice president for advocacy and policy at AHIMA." [Click Here](#) for the full press release.

Question 6 *I've heard coders need strong terminology skills for ICD10. Why?*

Response: There is a more detailed level of specificity with ICD10. With the addition of more than 125,000 new diagnosis and procedure codes, there is demand for a high level of coder expertise in the areas of anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology and medical terminology.



If you intend to become an ICD10 Trainer it is necessary to sharpen this clinical training to a level of expertise where you can teach others what they need to know to appropriately assign codes within this new data set. Many organizations offering ICD10 also offer Advanced Medical Terminology for Coders which includes anatomy and pathology. If you intend to learn ICD10 as a coder next year, close to implementation, now is a great time to advance basic skills required for ICD10.

Question 7 *How will ICD10 affect our reimbursement?*

Response to Hospital Providers: Diagnosis coding affects DRG (diagnostic Related Group) reimbursement by CMS for inpatient stays. CMS has been working on this project "Converting MS-DRGs to ICD10-CM and ICD-10-PCS". [Click Here](#) for the Conversion Project Page on the CMS web site. This page also contains slides and the Partial Freeze of the ICD9 and ICD10 data sets pdf.

Response to Physician & Other Providers: Diagnosis coding is vital to support medical necessity. Local and National Coverage Determinations (LCDs and NCDs) will be updated to include ICD-10-CM codes.

It is important to learn the higher level of specificity of coding and documentation required to get claims paid under the new data set. Using the GEMS (general equivalent mappings) is a good way to start. GEMS is free from the CMS web site - [Click Here](#). This CMS page also contains coding guidelines, reimbursement mappings and ICD10 code descriptions!

Question 8: *Isn't it best to wait until 2013 or closer before actually doing implementation and training for ICD10? Isn't it too early?*

Updated Response: *We must assume the proposed rule to delay implementation will be approved.* We now have additional time to train more trainers - hopefully there will be sufficient classes and programs available late 2013 and in 2014 when it is time to train front line staff. Now is the time to train providers, those involved in your implementation plan and experienced coders to train as trainers. ([Click Here for Version 5010 Info Link](#)).

Read "10 reasons to not delay" article from AHIMA ([Click Here](#))



Question 9: *We are a pediatric clinic where Medicare doesn't really apply. What is the requirement for Medicaid to comply with ICD10 implementation?*

Response: As HIPAA covered entities, States also must comply with use of the ICD-10 codes sets by the October 1, 2013, deadline.

To help States implement ICD-10, CMS has developed an ICD-10 training package for State Medicaid agencies. The complete package includes 12 training segments that address Federal requirements and other aspects of ICD-10 implementation. [Click Here](#) for a link to the Medicaid Resources page!

Question 10: *We are being told by consultants and at management meetings to continue implementation planning. Where can we go for more information?*

Response: Many professional organizations are holding implementation seminars. Attending ICD10 training camps are helpful as well. Free information is provided by CMS.

[Click Here](#) for CMS' ICD10 Provider's guide "Talking to Vendors"

Provider can also download free Timeline Widgets ([Click Here](#)).

The widget and timelines are public domain. CMS encourages organizations to distribute them widely through posting to websites and other channels.

Printer-friendly versions of the 5010 and ICD10 widget implementation timelines are available for the following provider types through the link provided above.

For AIHC ICD10 students, these resources are also located on your ICD10 Course Page, or click on the provider listing below for a direct link!

- [Large Providers](#)
- [Small Providers](#)
- [Payers](#)
- [Vendors](#)



Question 11: *Is ICD10 compatible with our current practice management systems?*

Response : It is important to start verifying version 5010 compatibility which is one of the first steps in ICD10 implementation. Talk to your vendors, including any clearing houses used to file claims to ensure compatibility exists to meet the June 30, 2012 deadline for Version 5010 ([Click Here for Version 5010 Info Link](#)).

The next step – AIHC recommends someone in your office obtain at least introductory training to ICD10 to understand the difference between ICD9 and ICD10. Then ask specific questions to your vendors related to any concerns you might have regarding compliance and compatibility to the HIPAA standards.

Question 12: *My physicians are wondering why it is necessary to convert to ICD10, what is wrong with the United States staying with ICD9?*

Response: The current United States disease classification is incompatible with the structure of the ICD-10-based system, which was revised by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** to permit flexibility, expansion, and future upgrades.

The United States' continuous use of ICD9 means that codes cannot be adequately or appropriately assigned to describe improved knowledge of medicine and disease or detail 21st century medical procedures and technology. As the U.S. waits to convert to the contemporary ICD-10 classification system, the cost of converting continues to increase as the current push for adoption of HIT in all sectors of the industry accelerates. Currently, the US is the only industrialized nation not using an ICD-10 based classification system for morbidity purposes.

Question 13: *Our office (home health) wants to wait until June 2012 to train our staff in ICD10, is that too late to wait?*

Response: It is difficult to determine how early you should start training coders in your organization. However, Home Health relies upon the OASIS form and diagnosis coding is a critical aspect of your reimbursement. By delaying all training until June 2012, you may miss the opportunity of having more advanced insight into the complexities of the new data set and struggles to overcome with the last phases of implementation.



Question 14: *If I take an ICD10 training course, do I need to use ICD10 coding books? Our organization uses computer software to assign codes.*

Response: It depends upon the training organization. At minimum, download the data sets which are free on the CDC ([Centers for Disease Control](#)) and/or [CMS' web site](#) to use during training. Tuition may include the ICD10 coding books needed for your training. If not, ask to speak with one of the instructors for advice. It is best to be well prepared for your training classes – whether they are online, distance learning or training camps! AIHC offers preapproved online classes at a very reasonable cost ([Click Here](#)) in addition to Trainer Certifications and training camps ([Click Here](#) for locations and dates).

Question 15: *I am the lead coder for our clinic. How can I stay informed of changes, delays, etc?*

Response: If you belong to a coding organization, read your monthly newsletters and updates. Check the ICD10 page of the CMS web site weekly. Subscribe to list serves which will send you updates.

Monitor compliance updates through AIHC and if you are a member, AIHC will be starting an ICD10 CHAT ROOM soon! Email us at info@aihc-assn.org if you are interested in the ICD10 chat room so we can notify when it is up and running!

