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ICD-10: Resources to Help in Your Transition

Noted by regulation published by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) last year, the transition from ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-CM/PCS code sets is **October 1, 2015**. As we begin counting down the months and days, are you and your practice prepared for this switch?

The **American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA)** recognizes the time, effort and cost that this transition will involve for physician anesthesiologists and their practices. To help our members better prepare for the switch, the Department of Payment and Practice Management created an ICD-10-CM Mapping Guide Tool Kit. The tool kit allows physician anesthesiologists to compare ICD-9-CM codes to relevant to the scope of anesthesiology to their ICD-10-CM counterpart. To access the mapping guide, please click here.

To keep our members informed and up-to-date, ASA's Payment and Practice Management Department posts articles to the ASA website that address recent news and information applicable to payment and practice management. The transition from ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-CM/PCS is the subject of several of these "Timely Topics" articles.

ICD-10 Readiness Testing
ICD-10 CM/PCS Delay: What Does it Mean To You?
Tense about ICD-10?

(To read other current articles pertaining to anesthesia and pain medicine, please refer to ASA's Timely Topics page: http://www.asahq.org/resources/practice-management/timely-topics-in-payment-and-practice-management)

The **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)** provides a variety of resources and testing opportunities for healthcare professionals. CMS's "Road to 10"is an online resource created to help small and medium to large medical practices with their ICD-10 transition. "Road to 10", a no-cost tool includes specialty references, webcasts, a template library, and the capability to craft personalized ICD-10 action plans. A direct link to the tool is below:

http://www.roadto10.org/

CMS through Medscape Education has released a selection of resources and videos that provide guidance for the ICD-9 to ICD-10 switch. Physicians who complete the learning modules and obtain a certificate of completion may qualify to receive Continuing Medical Education (CME) credits. The modules are free of cost, but if you are new to Medscape you must register as a user. Links to the modules:

ICD-10: Getting From Here to There—Navigating the Road Ahead

ICD-10 and Clinical Documentation

Testing is an important part of this transition. CMS offers both end-to-end testing and acknowledgement testing. The end-to-end testing process includes submission of test claims to CMS with ICD-10 codes and the healthcare provider's receipt of a Remittance Advice (RA) which explains the reasoning for the claims. The primary goals for end-to-end testing are:

- Demonstrate that healthcare providers can successfully submit ICD-10 claims
- Demonstrate CMS software modifications made to support ICD-10 lead to properly adjudicated claims
- Produce accurate RAs

CMS will offer three testing periods (January 2015, April 2015 and July 2015). Although registration for the April 2015 round is now closed, we encourage you to register for the July 2015 testing period. For more information, please refer to this direct link.

(To view results from the January 2015 testing period, please click here.)

Acknowledgement Testing allows providers, suppliers, clearinghouses and billing companies to submit claims with ICD-10 codes to the Medicare Fee-For-Service (FFS) claims system and receive notification that their claims are received. While CMS permits submission of acknowledgement claims up until the October 1st implementation date (no registration is required), the agency has designated special acknowledgment testing weeks to generate awareness and boost participation. The designated testing weeks not only grant submitters access to real-time help desk support, but allow CMS to analyze testing data. The remaining dates for 2015 are below:

- March 2-6, 2015
- June 1-5, 2015

If you have not yet started to prepare for this important transition, now is the time to begin. If you have, keep up your good efforts. Assuming that your practice's software is ready to go, ASA encourages members to engage in testing opportunities (End-To-End Testing, Acknowledgement Testing). To ensure and maintain readiness, you might consider dual coding, assigning ICD-9 AND ICD-10 codes simultaneously to medical records.

There are multiple resources available to fit you needs. With time and effort, you and your practice will be ready for full implementation on October 1, 2015.

References

1. www.cms.gov