

ICD-10 Taskforce Bulletin

A Newsletter from the NCHICA ICD-10 Taskforce

September 2011

Healthcare Reform & ICD-10-CM

Healthcare reform is a broad term associated with a variety of legislative provisions passed by Congress including:

- Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 (sometimes referred to as the Affordable Care Act or ACA; or Health Reform Law)
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-111publ148/pdf/PLAW-111publ148.pdf>
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (AARA) which includes the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH)
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2010-08-30/pdf/2010-21027.pdf>
- Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2009-01-16/pdf/E9-743.pdf>

Through passage of these various laws, the ultimate goal is to improve the quality of patient care and patient safety, make healthcare more efficient, expand access to healthcare, improve care coordination and improve public health.

The Affordable Care Act requires most Americans to have health insurance coverage and provides subsidies to low and middle income people to help purchase private coverage. It regulates private insurers more closely and includes provisions designed to modernize Medicare and Medicaid programs to make them more cost-efficient. ACA also includes requirements to adopt operating rules for each of the HIPAA transactions. The HITECH Act authorizes the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to provide reimbursement incentives for eligible providers and hospitals who demonstrate "meaningful use" of certified Electronic Health Record (EHR) technology.

ICD-9-CM was adopted for use in the U.S. in 1979 – **32 years ago!** When one considers how much medicine has changed and improved over the past 32 years, it is easy to understand how the transition to ICD-10-CM will impact the success of healthcare reform. For example:

- ICD-10-CM offers significantly better specificity and detail, enabling more precise coding of diagnostic and procedural information. This reflects the many advances in medicine and medical technology, making the code sets more relevant to today's understanding of disease processes.
- ICD-10-CM standardizes healthcare terminology, making it consistent with national and international public health data reporting.
- ICD-10-CM is a critical element for implementing EHRs as it will help speed up the adoption of health information technology by healthcare providers, thus improving efficiency and providing information essential to improve patient care, care coordination and public health at large.
- ICD-10-CM is at the core of healthcare reform because it provides the standard and high-quality data a modern healthcare delivery system requires.

NOTE: If portions of Healthcare Reform are repealed by Congress, the adoption of ICD-10-CM will not be impacted.

**RED ALERT
COUNTDOWN
753 Days**

(As of Sept. 8, 2011)

ICD-10-CM Training

NCHICA ICD-10 Workshop

September 28, 2011

Asheville, NC

<http://www.nchica.org/Activities/2011/icd-10.htm>

AAPC ICD-10 Boot Camp

- October 6, 2011
Charlotte, NC

- October 13, 2011
Raleigh, NC

<http://www.aapc.com/ICD-10/>

ICD-10-CM Resources

- **CMS Website**
www.cms.gov/ICD10/
- **HIMSS Playbook**
http://www.himss.org/ASP/topics_icd10playbook.asp

Content provided by the NCHICA ICD-10 Taskforce. For more information on ICD-10 and to read past Bulletins, visit www.nchica.org and click on ICD-10.