



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**July 20, 2009**

**NCHICA and WEDI Release Timeline for ICD-10 Implementation  
Industry Should Start Work Today on Implementation Strategies**

**Research Triangle Park, NC and Reston, VA** – NCHICA and WEDI have released their timeline for ICD-10 implementation. The timeline illustrates the need for all segments of the healthcare industry to start planning work now in order to meet the October 1, 2013 compliance deadline.

The timeline was developed by the NCHICA-WEDI Timeline Initiative, a collaboration of provider, health plan and vendor representatives serving on several workgroups. It details the steps and time required for each industry segment (providers, plans and vendors) to effectively implement this major change in how the healthcare industry identifies diagnoses and inpatient hospital procedures.

Work on this revision of the timeline started shortly after the January 16, 2009 publication of the CMS regulation requiring the use of ICD-10 on transactions for any service performed on and after Oct 1, 2013. CMS has stated firmly its expectation that the industry meets the deadline, and no contingency period will be allowed. Based on the timeline, the industry should be working now on an implementation strategy. Implementation is estimated to take a total of 966 days and should begin by January 18, 2010.

Jim Schuping, Executive Vice President/CEO of WEDI, stated, “We have created this timeline as a resource for the industry so that entities will know what they have to do, and when, to meet the compliance date. WEDI will continue to provide guidance and assistance to enable the industry to adhere to the timeline.”

Holt Anderson, the Executive Director of NCHICA, added, “The NCHICA-WEDI timeline shows graphically that the full time from now to October 2013 will be required to successfully meet the compliance deadline. We cannot continue to delay this effort.”

NCHICA and WEDI will continue to work together on further timeline efforts to inform the industry and policy makers of the time and resources necessary to accomplish major objectives. In addition to using this new timeline to monitor industry progress toward the compliance date, the timeline project staff are working on the overlaps among ICD-10, HIPAA version upgrades, and ARRA initiatives so that entities can make appropriate resource decisions. Also, recommendations are being developed on how to compress tasks that the timeline indicates should have begun earlier this year.

NCHICA and WEDI are providing the timeline tool at no charge on the NCHICA website at: <http://www.nchica.org/HIPAAResources/timeline.htm>. The timeline is available in both Microsoft Project® and Adobe PDF formats. Further information on the Timeline Initiative can be found at <http://www.nchica.org/HIPAAResources/timeline.htm> and [http://www.wedi.org/public/articles/dis\\_viewArticle.cfm?ID=741](http://www.wedi.org/public/articles/dis_viewArticle.cfm?ID=741).



In response to the growing interest in the NCHICA-WEDI Timeline Initiative and ICD-10 implementation, WEDI has created several workgroups and list serves for payers, providers and vendors to identify and resolve major issues in the work being done. These are part of WEDI's ongoing SNIP initiative for industry implementation of major HIT projects. For more information, and sign up, go to:

<http://www.wedi.org>.

NCHICA's Transactions, Code Sets & Identifiers Workgroup has formed an ICD-10 Task Force to help NCHICA members address ICD-10 implementation. For more information, call 919-558-9258.

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#### **About WEDI**

The Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI) is a broad-based healthcare industry association "partnering for electronic delivery of information in healthcare." WEDI is headquartered in Reston, Virginia, near Washington, DC. Inquiries for additional information may be directed to WEDI, c/o Jim Schuping, Executive Vice President/CEO, 12020 Sunrise Valley Drive, Suite 100, Reston, VA 20191. Phone: 703-391-2716; e-mail: [jschuping@wedi.org](mailto:jschuping@wedi.org).

#### **About NCHICA**

The North Carolina Healthcare Information and Communications Alliance, Inc. (NCHICA) is a nonprofit consortium of over 200 organizations dedicated to improving health and care in North Carolina by accelerating the adoption of information technology and enabling policies. NCHICA members include leading organizations in healthcare, information technology and research. For more information, visit [www.nchica.org](http://www.nchica.org).

#### **Media Contacts:**

Laura Ksycewski  
NCHICA  
[Laura@nchica.org](mailto:Laura@nchica.org)  
(919) 558-9258 ext. 25

Ann Marie Railing  
WEDI  
[AMRailing@wedi.org](mailto:AMRailing@wedi.org)  
(703) 391-2718