



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NCHICA/WEDI Publish “Alternative” ICD-10 Implementation Timeline Shows Impact of Delayed Start of the Project

Research Triangle Park, NC and Reston, VA -- The NCHICA/WEDI Timeline Initiative has published a new “alternative” industry timeline for implementing ICD-10 by the October 1, 2013 compliance date. The alternative timeline was suggested because various industry surveys, including those from WEDI, continue to show that the industry has delayed much of their ICD-10 implementation work. The revised timeline, available at <http://www.nchica.org/HIPAAResources/timeline.htm>, shows the impact on providers, plans and vendors of delaying their work.

The initial assumptions for the timeline were that all entities would begin significant work on their ICD-10 implementation in January of 2009, when the regulations were published. Based on the current status of implementation efforts, the initial assumptions have been updated. It was decided to use August 1, 2010 as the new starting date for vendor product requirement development and reengineering, health plan assessment work, and provider preliminary impact analysis work. The timeline was then revised, with the constraint that the compliance deadline would not change.

As a result, several steps had to be combined and durations shortened for each group. For vendors, product requirement analysis and reengineering were combined, with duration for those steps shortened from 14 to 8 months. Health plan strategy development was reduced from 6 to 4 months, and system design and development work was reduced from 18 to 12 months. Internal testing time was reduced from 9 to 6 months, external testing from 10 to 8 months. For providers, internal system design and development was reduced from 14 to 6 months, internal testing from 12 to 8 months, and external testing from 10 to 8 months.

This alternative timeline thus gives us a picture of the results of delaying this critically important project, and the increased risks for failure in entities which have delayed their work. For those entities that have delayed work later than the August 2010 date, critical steps are even more drastically impacted. Individual entities should look at both the original timeline and the alternative timeline to determine which timeline best reflects their situation and use that as the starting point for their project plan.

Holt Anderson, the Executive Director of NCHICA, stated, “This alternative timeline clearly shows how delaying the start of this project hinders a successful implementation by October 2013. It is imperative that the healthcare sector respond quickly to meet the Federal regulatory requirements.”

Jim Schuping, WEDI’s Executive Vice President/CEO, added, “The revised timeline provides valuable information in showing executives the impacts of delays and the difficulty of meeting required deadlines without advance planning and project management and tracking. We will continue to monitor industry progress on this critically important initiative.”

The “alternative” timeline, as well as the original timeline, is available in both Microsoft Project format and Adobe PDF format on the NCHICA website.

About NCHICA

NCHICA is a nationally recognized nonprofit consortium dedicated to *“improving health and care in North Carolina by accelerating the adoption of information technology and enabling policies.”* [Members](#) include leading organizations in healthcare, research and information technology. For more information, visit www.nchica.org.

About WEDI

The Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI) is a broad-based industry coalition “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.

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