

ICD-10 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

On Friday, January 16, 2009, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published a Final Rule for the adoption of ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS code sets to replace the currently used ICD-9-CM code sets under rules. To view the Final Rule, go to <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-743.pdf>. The compliance date for implementation of the ICD-10-CM/PCS Coding System is October 1, 2013 for all covered entities.

The three key issues that HHS believes necessitates an update from ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-CM/PCS are:

- ICD-9-CM is out of date and running out of space for new codes.
- ICD-10 is the international standard to report and monitor diseases and mortality, making it important for the US to adopt an ICD-10-based classification for reporting and surveillance.
- ICD codes are core elements of many health information technology (HIT) systems, making the conversion to ICD-10-CM/PCS necessary to fully realize benefits of HIT adoption.

What does this mean for you and your practice:

Implementing ICD-10 would require that medical practices and other health care organizations would need to draw from 155,000 diagnosis codes rather than the current 17,000 codes in ICD-9. The transition to this new complex code set will require training of Physicians and Coding staff, development of crosswalks, and upgrades to billing systems.

Based on guidance from organizations such as HHS, the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA.org), and other coding associations physicians and coders will need at least 8 to 10 hours for ICD-10-CM training. This switch can also cause for lost productivity and confusion so the guidance is to start planning and training as soon as possible. The WSMA will be providing additional information on implementing ICD-10 on our website in the Practice Resource Center.

ICD-10 vs. ICD-9

- ▶ ICD-10 is printed in a three-volume set compared with ICD-9 two-volume set.
- ▶ ICD-10 has *alphanumeric* categories, rather than numeric categories.
- ▶ Some chapters rearranged, some titles have changed, and conditions have been regrouped.
- ▶ ICD-10 has *almost twice as many categories* as ICD-9.
- ▶ Codes contain *up to seven characters*, compared with five in ICD-9.