

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Electronic Standards News



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Newsletter

Clinical Implications of ICD-10

On October 1, 2013, the Military Health System (MHS) will be required to convert to International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision (ICD-10). The transition from ICD-9 to ICD-10 includes many changes.

Did you know?:

- The differences go well beyond just an increase in the number of available codes or differences in the structure of the codes, but also include substantial changes to clinical definitions and terminology. The following chart gives just a few examples:

ICD-9 Procedure Term	ICD-10 Procedure Term
Anastomosis	Bypass
Amputation	Detachment
Debridement	Excision, Extraction, Irrigation, Extirpation

- Due to the changes in ICD-10-Procedural Coding System (PCS), it will require more codes to report some procedures. Information systems and forms will need to be modified to accommodate more codes for documentation of inpatient procedures.
- The General Equivalence Mapping (GEM) provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid contains all possible conversions between the ICD-10 and ICD-9 code populations. These conversions can be simple 1-to-1 conversions or complex 1-to-many conversions that require combinations of codes in order to correctly map. Additionally, there are many cases where there is no perfect match from an ICD-9 to an ICD-10 code. An imperfect mapping from an ICD-9 to ICD-10 code may result in the loss of some concepts in translation or the assumption of some concepts that may or may not be true, thereby impacting a patient's history. In order to ensure accuracy, physicians/clinicians who provide documentation must be trained to write narrative notes so that coders will have the specificity they need to code the record.

Some of the lessons learned from other countries that have implemented ICD-10 include the following:

- Begin now - take advantage of lead time
- Adequate planning and preparation are very important
- There is likely to be a 6-month learning curve
- Training should not exceed 6 months before implementation and use
- Communication is critical
- Appropriate education targeted at the various stakeholder groups is critical

The MHS is well into the requirements development phase of ICD-10 implementation, with high-level functional requirements nearing completion. The next phases of planning will involve a closer look at implications such as these and the best ways to prepare systems and users.

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