Overview of ICD-10 (International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision)

Background

The World Health Organization's (WHO) International Classification of Diseases has served the health care community for over a century. The United States implemented the current version (ICD-9) in 1979. While most industrialized countries moved to ICD-10 a number of years ago, the United States is just now transitioning.

The International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM) is mandated by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. The current compliance date is October 1, 2015. While there were two one-year delays to the mandated compliance date, there is no expectation of an additional delay due to the full support expressed by representatives from the Committee on Energy and Commerce during a February 2015 hearing on ICD-10 implementation.

ICD-10 is the first major upgrade to this coding system in more than 30 years, and represents a significant increase in the number of codes utilized and the granularity of the coding required. Transition to ICD-10 will require the diagnosis or reason for the visit be recorded using ICD-10, instead of the current ICD-9, for all dates of service on and after October 1, 2015.

Why replace ICD-9?

Developed in the 1970s, the ICD-9-CM code set no longer fits with the needs of the 21st century health care system. ICD-9-CM is used for many more purposes today than when it was originally developed and is no longer able to support current health information needs. Continuing to rely on the outdated and imprecise ICD-9-CM platform adversely affects the value of health care data. For example, ICD-9 does not meet current needs to track, identify and analyze new clinical services and treatments available for patients. ICD-10 offers more detail and specificity in capturing health care data.

ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS (procedure coding system) must be adopted as soon as possible to reverse the trend of deteriorating health data. Never in U.S. history have we used the same version of ICD for 35 years. In addition, many countries have already moved to ICD-10.

Provider support

ICD-10 training for all stakeholders is available on demand through the MyVeHU Campus website. There are 22 sessions available to meet the needs of a wide range of stakeholders, ranging from awareness sessions to provide an overview of ICD-10 to detailed coding instruction.

Additionally, there are on-line Elsevier modules to educate stakeholders on documentation and ICD-10 coding. Presentations geared for providers that can be used for training are available under the ICD-10 sharing corner on the VA Health Information Management (HIM) ICD-10 website.

Sources and training:

- American Health Information Management Association
  Choose Your Path to ICD-10
  http://www.ahima.org/topics/icd10/faqs

- Department Veterans Affairs
  10NC Memo ADUSH Clinical Operations: VAIQ 7615505

- MyVeHU Campus website
  http://www.myvehucampus.com/

- Elsevier ICD-10 training modules
  https://login.elsevierperformancemanager.com/systemlogin.aspx?virtualname=VAEES

- VA HIM ICD-10 website
  http://vaww.vhahim.va.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=71&Itemid=697

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