

ICD-10 is coming, ready or not!

We were graced with a postponement of the implementation of ICD-10 from October 1, 2014 to October 1, 2015. October is a long ways away, right? There's no need to start talking about this now, is there? YES!

As your provider of rehabilitative services, we have a plan to roll out ICD-10 and help you make the transition.

Is it really that different from ICD-9? **YES...at a glance:**

ICD-9	ICD-10
3-5 Characters	3-7 Characters
13,000 codes	69,000 codes
Start with letter or a number	All start with letter
No room to expand for new codes	Expansion possible
Does not ID laterality	Codes can include laterality

Our plan involves a tiered approach to training and education for both our customers and our clinicians.

- 1) March/April: Introduction: What is ICD-10 & how does it affect me?
- 2) June/July: Instruction: Nuts and bolts-how do we code using ICD-10
- 3) August/September: Application/test: run through scenarios, data entry (desktop and mobile), etc.

Some questions to start asking:

- Is your current (software) vendor(s) prepared to accept imports for ICD-10? This could include billing/EHR, labs, DME, etc.
- Do you have a plan to purge old/resolved diagnoses of LTC residents in preparation for ICD10 conversion (acute patients will have diagnoses from hospital and hopefully hospital software will convert co-morbidities for us!).
- Will payors be rejecting claims for certain codes? Will payment be interrupted if the transition doesn't go as smooth as it should?

Since there is no grace period on this transition, ICD-9 will apply through September 30, 2015 and ICD-10 will apply on October 1, 2015. This will require transitioning or "mapping" codes from the old system (ICD-9) to the new system (ICD-10).

CMS has some resources available for code mapping, and general information about the transition as well. This can be found at:

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/index.html?redirect=/icd10>

Stay tuned for more information coming soon! You are not alone in this, we are here to help!