

ICD-10: 13 Days and Counting!

How will you spend those days preparing?

We still hear from many practices that are not taking the time to prepare at this point since CMS has granted the one year grace period for full implementation. If this is the approach that your practice/organization is taking, be mindful that the while the grace will result in claims being processed and not denied for incorrect ICD-10 coding issues, the claims must still include ICD-10 codes as ICD-9 will no longer be accepted.

So the best advice-DO NOT RELY ON THE GRACE! You now have only 13 days left and you need to ensure a plan for smooth implementation. Below is a recommended checklist of one simple task to perform on each day to make sure you are prepared. This is a list of suggested duties to perform September 14-18, 2015. Next week's auditing tip will provide a checklist for the last full week of the countdown.

Monday, September 14: Make sure you have ICD-10 books in your office. I know this sounds elementary, but many organizations are relying strictly on the use of their EHR or crosswalks and these do not always cross the specificity needed and may not include all of the place holders/characters needed.

Tuesday, September 15: Collect the top 50 diagnoses of your practice and crosswalk them to the appropriate ICD-10 code. Be sure to NOT include the unspecified options to force conversion now that will work well for your group after the grace.

Wednesday, September 16: Of the top 50 diagnosis codes that were cross walked, narrow down the list by provider and ask for 5 minutes with them. spend this 5 minutes explaining that these are a few of their most commonly used diagnoses and point out difference that need to be documented.

Thursday, September 17: Medical Assistants play a big role in the clinical area and while they are limited in how they can assist the provider in the documentation process they still assist the provider in the clinic setting and therefore, spend 5 minutes with them explaining the depth of documentation that is needed will assist your providers. If your organization utilizes scribes- be sure to also actively review this information to ensure their understanding as well.

Friday, September 18: Review the cross walked diagnoses with your billing, coding, and charge entry staff. While they should have already been educated on ICD-10, these codes are very specific to your organization and will be most pertinent to implementation.

While ICD-10 certainly includes variations from ICD-9 as well as more specific information regarding the patient and the encounter, it is still looking up a code which we have done as long as we have been coders/auditors. Breaking down last minute prep to a small task each day will help ensure your success.

This Week's Tip Provided by:

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