

Medicare's Testing Plan for ICD-10 Success

Leah Nguyen:

Welcome to this MLN Connects video on Medicare's testing plan for ICD-10 success. This presentation was recorded at the ICD-10 Coordination and Maintenance Committee on March 18, 2015, at CMS.

Pat Brooks:

In anticipation of the implementation of ICD-10 on October 1, 2015, CMS has undergone a process of doing ICD-10 end-to-end testing. And I'm pleased to introduce Stacy Shagena, today, from CMS, who's going to explain this process to us. Thank you, Stacy.

Stacy Shagena:

Thanks, Pat. Thanks for having me back. I just wanted to go over real quickly, again, CMS's approach to testing. We do have a four-pronged approach to testing ICD-10, which includes CMS internal testing of its claims processing systems, beta testing tools available from CMS to the industry to get them ready, acknowledgment testing, and end-to-end testing. And certainly testing is the key here to success. We encourage everyone to participate as fully as they can in our testing program, not only here at CMS, but with any of your other payers that you interact with. We have completed, actually, three successful acknowledgment testing weeks now. We just finished our March testing just a few, a week ago. So we have three acknowledgement testings complete. And we completed our first of three end-to-end testing weeks in January.

Acknowledgment testing allows the testers to submit claims with ICD-10 codes to receive an acknowledgment that the claim was accepted. So this testing is a very high level testing, but it allows testers to know that their claim will be accepted into the system as properly formatted with ICD-10 codes. The testers do get an electronic acknowledgment that says that their claim as been accepted. We performed the first of these testings back in March of 14, and believe I presented this one before. And this was our largest testing effort so far with the acknowledgment testing. And we had 127,000 claims submitted and over 2,600 participating providers, suppliers, and billing companies, and did not find in any issues with the system. We repeated this test again in, this past November. And we got 13,700 claims and over 500 providers testing with us. And again, did not identify any issues.

We'll be announcing our March testing numbers very soon. But I can tell you that, again, we were, we were successful and we did not find any systems issues with our March testing. Those numbers should be out very soon with the specifics. And we have one future acknowledgment testing week left to participate with us during our specific testing weeks, which is in the first week in June, June 1 through June 5. In addition to this testing week, you can participate with us at any time, submitting acknowledgment test claims. If you choose to submit outside of our testing weeks, your claims are just not counted in our totals. You'll still get your

acknowledgment testing. We just provide a little bit additional support from our call centers if you decide to acknowledgment test with us during our specific testing weeks.

Our end-to-end testing, which we, which we first performed at this time in January, allowed providers to actually submit ICD test claims that were fully processed and produced remittance advices. So this is the first full testing from all the way from the beginning, all the way to the end of an actual remittance advice. Approximately 850 providers had the opportunity to submit test claims up to 20, 2,550 test claims per session. And the goal of this testing is to demonstrate that the providers are able to successfully submit claims, that software changes to support ICD-10 have been fully tested, and that accurate remittance advices are produced. Registration was required for this testing. So this is not an open testing for everyone to participate. However, we do try to, in our selection process, chose testers that represent a statistically valid sample of what real Medicare claims volumes are like. We've done NPI analysis of those claims that were submitted for January, and we will use that information to help us choose testers for the April and July rounds of testing.

So, some of the results that we have released are early results from our January testing. Approximately 660 providers did decide to test with us and submitted nearly 15,000 test claims. Only 3 percent of the test claims were rejected for invalid submission of ICD-10 diagnosis codes. And we did find one system problem with home health claims spanning the implementation date. That system problem has been corrected, and we'll be able to retest with April to show that that particular problem has been resolved. So our next round of end-to-end testing will be April 27 through May 1. The testers for the April window have already been selected, and they are preparing to test right now. And the round three end-to-end testing will be July 20 through 24. Registration is now open on the MACs websites and will be open through April 17. So, if you have not volunteered yet, but you would like to do so, you still have until April 17 to submit a registration. Thank you.

Leah Nguyen:

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