

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 September 23, 2014, at CMS.

Pat Brooks:

I would like to introduce Stacy Saginaw, CMS, who is going to be talking about a very hot topic today, Medicare's testing plan for ICD 10 success. Stacy.

Stacey Shagena:

Thank you, Pat. The implementation of ICD 10 represents a significant code set change that impacts the entire health care community. As ICD 10 implementation date of October 1st, 2015 approaches, CMS is taking a comprehensive, four-pronged approach to preparedness and testing for ICD 10 to ensure that CMS as well as the provider community is ready. The four-pronged approach includes CMS internal testing of its claims processing systems, provider-initiated beta testing tools, acknowledgement testing, and end-to-end testing.

What we have already accomplished: CMS internal system testing has been completed, and we have been ready for ICD 10 since October of 2013. CMS has a very mature and rigorous testing program for its Medicare fee for service processing systems that supports the implementation of four quarterly releases a year, includes four weeks of alpha and beta testing, includes eight weeks of beta testing, and includes four weeks of acceptance testing. So we do a lot of testing to make sure our systems are ready. CMS began installing these changes in 2011, and as like I said earlier, we are ready. All of the macs [spelled phonetically] have verified their systems, have been updated, they have done their testing, and we are ready for implementation.

CMS completed its first acknowledgement testing week with submitters in March of this year. March 14 acknowledgement testing we consider to be a very good success. One hundred and twenty-seven thousand claims with ICD 10 codes were received, and acknowledgments confirming that those claims were accepted were sent to testers. Approximately 2,600 participating providers, suppliers, clearing houses, and billing agencies participated in the testing. This represents about 5 percent of all submitters. Testers include small and large physician practices, small and large hospitals, ambulatory surgical centers, dialysis facilities, home health providers, ambulatory providers. We had a large group, a selection of just about everyone participate in the testing.

Nationally, CMS accepted 89 percent of all the test claims, with some of the regions reporting acceptance as high as 99 percent. This 11 percent difference, for the most part, was due to people intentionally submitting negative test claims to see that they would reject properly. So those -- that 89 percent is representative of additional negative testing. And most importantly,

the testing did not identify a single issue. Every claim was verified to have processed correctly. So we will be continuing with acknowledgement testing different than the March testing that we did previously this year. Acknowledgement testing is open to everyone without registration, and is available now. So if you would like to test with us and do acknowledgement testing, anyone can participate who submits directly to Medicare.

That testing will continue all the way up through October 1st of 2015 for implementation. In addition to being able to test at any time, we will be sponsoring three special acknowledgement testing weeks. The purpose of these weeks is to encourage folks to participate with us in testing in targeted campaigns for testing, and we will be collecting -- CMS will be collecting data during those weeks specifically so that we will be able to report numbers similar to the ones we just reported from the March testing. The first register -- the first testing week is November 17th through the 21st, and again registration is not required, but if you'd like to participate and you have any questions, you can go to your mac's website or contact their EDI help desk for more information about how to test with us.

More exciting, we are planning three testing weeks for end-to-end testing. Now this testing, similar to the one that we had previously planned for July, does require volunteers to submit a registration. CMS will offer the opportunity to participate in end-to-end testing with the max, the IRB [spelled phonetically], and the CDI contractor who processes the DME supplier claims in January, April, and July of next year. As planned, 850 providers will have the opportunity to participate during each of the testing period, with a total of 2,550 testers over all between the three periods. The goals of this testing will demonstrate that our systems are ready, that providers can submit ICD 10 claims, that the claims will actually be adjudicated correctly, and that accurate remittance advice will be produced.

Each round of the testing, 50 volunteers will be chosen by each mac. So for each mac jurisdiction, we will choose 50 volunteers to participate in each of the rounds of testing. Volunteers chosen will be allowed to submit 50 claims. Volunteers will be chosen to provide a representative sample of all submitters. So we will be choosing all types of submitters, small and large, from different specialties, including also clearing houses and billing agencies to get a good representative sample of who actually submits claims to Medicare. Once selected, those volunteers will be able to submit 50 additional claims in the subsequent round without re-registering. So once you are chosen as a volunteer for January, you would be able to test in April and July as well. If you're chosen for April, you would also be able to test in July.

So January, 2015 end-to-end testing will be January 26 through the 30. Registration is now available on your macs' websites, and is open until October 3rd. So just about 10 days left to register if you have not already registered with us for testing. Volunteers will be notified by October 24th whether or not they have been chosen. So you'll get positive or a negative reply from us to let us know that you've been chosen for testing. And those not selected should -- are encouraged to submit applications and register for the April or July testing. We just get a lot of applications in, so we want to make sure that you continue to volunteer for us in the subsequent rounds.

Leah Nguyen:

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