

ICD-10 Implementation Strategies and Planning National Provider Call

Moderator: Leah Nguyen

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Podcast 4 of 4: Question and Answer Session

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Question and Answer Session

Leah Nguyen: Welcome to the fourth of four podcasts from the National Provider Call on ICD-10 Implementation Strategies and Planning. This educational call was hosted by the CMS Provider Communications Group within the Center for Medicare on Thursday, November 17, 2011.

In this fourth podcast, CMS subject matter experts respond to questions about ICD-10 implementation.

You've heard a lot of information that we hope you all find helpful in implementing ICD-10. With the remaining minutes of this call, we will take a few questions.

Operator: We will now open the lines for our question and answer session. To ask a question, press star followed by the number 1 on your touchtone phone. To remove yourself from the queue, please press the pound key. Please state your name and organization prior to asking a question, and pick up your handset before asking your question to ensure clarity. Please note that your line will remain open during the time you are asking, so anything you say or any background noise will be heard in the conference. Your first question comes from the line of Edward Mulgrew.

Edward Mulgrew: When we submit claims on October 1, are we talking about the date of service as being the effective date for the ICD-9 or ICD-10?

Antoinette Johnson: Yes. All claims that you're submitting for ICD-10 will begin with a date of service of October 1, 2013. So it's the service date.

Edward Mulgrew: Thank you.

Operator: Go ahead, participant, your line is open.

Kim West: Hello, my name is Kim West. I'm with McKesson Corporation. I was wondering if there's any significance to the rumors about pushing back the date of October 1, 2013.

Denise Buenning: This is Denise Buenning. I'm Director of the Administrative Simplification Group here at CMS, and I'm responsible for the industry implementation of ICD-10. I can tell you that there is no truth to the rumor. There is no push-back. The date for ICD-10 remains October 1, 2013.

Kim West: OK, thank you.

Operator: Your next question comes from the line of Sue Welsh.

Sue Welsh: In looking at the ICD-10 conversion, is anyone working on converting the diagnoses in the NCDs to the ICD-10 format, so that we have some consistency in the administration of those?

Pat Brooks: Yes, Sue. I gave web links. We had previous discussions on the last conversion call, and during that call people from our coverage office talked about a process they were undertaking to do National Coverage Decisions. Perhaps in a future call we can ask them to give an update on where they are. They have not posted anything yet, but they did give a previous call where they said they were working on NCDs.

Sue Welsh: Thank you very much.

Operator: Your next question comes from the line of Lynne Shaffer.

Lynne Shaffer: Hi. The other caller asked about the date of service. What if it's an inpatient who comes in, let's say, on 10/1 and leaves on 10/16?

Pat Brooks: If you'll look at slide 7, you'll see that we use the date of discharge for hospital claims. So if the person comes in before October 1, but is discharged after October 1, the date of discharge determines the use of ICD-10. That example is on slide 7.

Lynne Shaffer: What about an observation patient?

Antoinette Johnson: If it's an outpatient service, which is observation—again, if you look back at slide 87, we asked that the providers split the claim and use the “from” date in that instance.

Operator: Your next question comes from the line of Trish Twombly.

Trish Twombly: I had two questions actually. I just attended one of the AHIMA Train the Trainer conferences, and they said that home health guidelines had not been released yet for ICD-10. My question is, Do you have any idea when home health-specific guidelines will be released? My other quick question is, Can you direct me to where I can find the grouper logic for ICD-10? Specifically, I'm looking for what codes are going to be manifestation codes in the ICD-10 system.

Pat Brooks: Please look at slide 11. We had a home health person talk briefly about what they had done so far, and we gave a link for you to listen to that call.

Trish Twombly: I had to dial in late, so I thank you for that. How about the grouper logic?

Pat Brooks: The first link on slide 10, the MS-DRG conversion project, takes you to the complete Definitions Manual for the current version we've worked on. We also provide links where you can purchase software for the ICD-10 MS-DRG grouper to test. That link will give you all this detailed information.

Trish Twombly: Alright, but that's for inpatient settings, right? DRGs?

Pat Brooks: That's correct, that's inpatient MS-DRG.

Trish Twombly: Alright, so there isn't anything yet for the HHRGs in the home health setting?

Pat Brooks: No, there is not anything released yet for the others. I think MS-DRG's was pretty much in advance of all the other payment systems, since the people who worked in that area also worked on the creation of ICD-10-PCS. We decided to do ours first so others within the agency could learn from us. The other payment systems are taking what we've done and applying it to their payment systems, and once they are ready, they'll be releasing theirs too. We were quite early with the ICD-10, MS-DRG.

Trish Twombly: Thank you very much, Pat.

Operator: Your next question comes from the line of Deborah Moore.

Deborah Moore: Hello. My question is, What is your response to the AMA House of Delegates voting to stop implementation of ICD-10?

Pat Brooks: I can tell you what our press office said. I'll just read you the comment: "Implementation of this new coding system will mean better information to improve the quality of health care and more accurate payments to providers. CMS is giving significant transition time and flexibility to providers to switch over, and we expect all providers to be in compliance at the end of this process."

Deborah Moore: Thank you.

- Operator: Your next question comes from the line of Brenda Ding.
- Brenda Ding: Hello. I was going to ask the same question about the AMA. Is that press release out on the site already?
- Pat Brooks: That is not a press release, it is a statement, and I don't know that it has necessarily been posted to the website.
- Brenda Ding: OK. The other question I had is in regard to testing. The 5010 testing that has been occurring it seems has been lagging. I'm really concerned about ICD-10 testing. How is end-to-end testing going to be achieved? When will CMS have some guidelines or guidance in regard to end-to-end testing and ensuring that we are able to test through the adjudication cycle?
- Pat Brooks: We don't fully understand the question. Maybe if you could clarify. Are you talking about provider testing, or could you explain the question?
- Brenda Ding: Yes, I am talking about provider testing, meaning that the providers would be able to submit test claims. I'm not sure if CMS is going to create some dummy data that would be used and allow providers to test with certain accounts and insurance numbers, and thus be able to test different scenarios to ensure that things are working properly.
- Sarah Shirey-Losso: This is Sarah in the Provider Billing Group. At this time we don't have any plans for provider testing. We plan to do our own internal system testing in the last 6 months, between April and October.
- Brenda Ding: So when they just talked in the presentation about external testing—how will we really do external testing if CMS is not going to allow us as providers to be able to test?
- Denise Buenning: I think how that would be achieved is still up for discussion. Obviously, it would take a lot to get to a testing mode, where we could actually pre-test, so to speak, before the actual implementation. That's still a topic under discussion at this point.
- Brenda Ding: Thank you.

Leah Nguyen: We realize there were a lot of questions today, and I'm sorry that we are not able to take more of them at this time. Don't forget—you can still e-mail your questions to ICD10-National-Calls@cms.hhs.gov. This e-mail address is also listed on slide 91. If you have a question for a particular speaker, please be sure to include that person's name in the subject line.

Before we end the call, for the benefit of those who may have joined the call late, please note that continuing education credits may be awarded by the American Academy of Professional Coders or the American Health Information Management Association for participation in CMS national provider calls. Please see slides 89 and 90 of the slide presentation for more details.

We would like to thank everyone for participating in the ICD-10 Implementation Strategies and Planning National Provider Call. An audio recording and written transcript of today's call will be posted to the CMS-Sponsored ICD-10 Teleconferences section of the CMS ICD-10 Web page, at www.cms.gov/icd10.

I would like to thank our speakers, Pat Brooks, Elizabeth Reed, Sue Bowman, Nelly Leon-Chisen, Donna Pickett, Sarah Shirey-Losso, and Antoinette Johnson for their participation. Have a great day, everyone.

Thank you for listening to this ICD-10 National Provider Call educational podcast. The information in this podcast was correct as of the date it was recorded. This podcast is not a legal document. Official Medicare program legal guidance is contained in the relevant statutes, regulations, and rulings.

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