

ICD-10 Work Moves Forward for Oct. 2014 Launch

With the Oct. 1, 2014 launch date set for all America's healthcare institutions to begin using ICD-10 codes, work is underway to ensure that ThompsonHealth's technology systems, providers and associates are prepared for this significant change in the way we bill for all patient visits and inpatient stays.

"While October 2014 may seem like a long way off, it's really not when you consider the number of places and times we interact with codes and the huge impact ICD-10 will have on the revenue we collect for providing patient care," said ICD-10 (URMC/FFT) Project Director Tricia Hough. "ICD-10 will greatly improve our ability to monitor and track diseases, and more accurately capture the true costs associated with caring for our patients."

At the heart of ICD-10 is a much more granular approach in documenting diagnoses and procedures. For diagnoses, codes will increase both in length (from 3 to 5 characters to 3 to 7 characters) and overall number (from 14,000 codes to 69,000 codes). A similar expansion is present with inpatient procedure codes, which will see a new structure (7 alphanumeric characters from 3 to 4 digits) and an increase from 4,000 to 72,000 codes.

"While the sheer volume of ICD-10 codes may seem overwhelming, the vast majority of Thompson providers and associates only use a small subset of codes. That will not change when we move to ICD-10," Hough added.

Full Steam Ahead

Dozens of providers and associates from throughout URMC & Thompson are already working on preparing for ICD-10. Leading the effort here at Thompson is an ICD-10 task force comprised of administrative leadership and associates from several of Thompson's departments such as HIM, physician practice, PFS, and IT. URMC ICD-10 project coordinator, Tricia Hough, will also be overseeing our implementation here at Thompson and sharing resources and knowledge to assure an overall successful implementation for URMC and its affiliates. URMC's steering committee is comprised of eight major work groups, each responsible for a key area such as training, clinical readiness, coding, and financial impact. Thompson's ICD-10 task force is focusing on the same key areas. Work currently in progress for ICD-10 includes:

- **Technology Review and Readiness:** This project is in progress here at Thompson. All clinical and financial systems must be configured to accept the new ICD-10 codes. The longer length of the codes and the introduction of letters pose challenges for many systems, and they need to be revamped and tested to ensure they are working properly by 2014. Thompson's ICD-10 task force will be reaching out to system super users to gather data first quarter 2013.
- **Clinical Readiness:** An assessment is currently underway to understand what and how many providers and associates need to be trained for ICD-10, and to determine the best methods to deliver training for each role (i.e., in class, web training, staff meetings, etc.).

We will continue to issue regular updates on ICD-10 throughout the year. In the meantime, if you have questions, contact the appropriate team member below.

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