NC TRACKS

RAMP UP to ICD-10 Introduction

RAMP UP to ICD-10:

Research
Assessment
Mapping
Process Improvement
    and Training
Update System(s)
    with Vendors
Perform Testing

For More Information:

Visit http://ncmmis.ncdhhs.gov/icd10.asp **for more information regarding the NCTracks transtion to ICD-10**

Preparing for ICD-10 involves a series of steps to ensure that your organization will be ready for implementation of the new code sets. The good news is that the compliance date for ICD-10 was postponed by CMS until October 2014, but there is a lot of work to be done in the meantime to provide a smooth transition.

To help organizations prepare for ICD-10 implementation, we will be presenting a series of articles built around the "RAMP UP" framework. This framework is intended to assist providers in navigating the activities that need to be done in the coming months. **RAMP UP** stands for:

Research – Preparing for any kind of organizational or operational change requires a thorough understanding of the topic. A successful transition to ICD-10 will require significant research and planning. Effective communication to stakeholders is also essential.

Assessment – The starting point for ICD-10 transition is an assessment to understand the role and location of ICD-9 codes across all systems, processes, policies and reports. Providers will need to identify business areas affected by ICD-10 and determine the level of support needed for successful transition.

Mapping – The process of evaluating and documenting the relationship between ICD-9 and ICD-10 code sets is a major aspect of preparing for ICD-10. The General Equivalence Maps (GEMs) developed by CMS are a great starting point, but they do not cover all of the potential ICD-9 to ICD-10 relationships, so additional analysis may be required.

Process Improvement – The move from ICD-9 to ICD-10 will affect not only computer systems, but business processes as well. A successful implementation of ICD-10 will require evaluation and update of all aspects of provider business operations to coincide with the technical changes. This topic also includes **Training** to ensure the

staff acquires the necessary skills and knowledge on the processes, procedures, policies, and system updates affected by the ICD-10 transition.

Update System(s) – The activities in Assessment, Mapping, and Process Improvement lead up to remediation of the computer system(s) for ICD-10. Ensuring that all affected components of the system are updated will enable a smooth operational implementation. Part of updating systems involves **Vendor Coordination** to synchronize changes to inbound and outbound external interfaces. Communication and timing with vendor partners are key to a seamless transition.

Perform Testing – Thorough testing ensures that business functions will continue normally throughout the transition. A rigorous testing methodology, documented test plan, and accurate test data are integral to achieving results that meet expectations.

Each RAMP UP article will include background information on the topic, explanation of why it is critical to successful ICD-10 implementation, steps to be taken to complete the activity, and resources for obtaining additional information. RAMP UP articles will have a common format for ease of understanding and reference. Some activities have sub-topics, which will be addressed within the larger topic or in a separate article. The first RAMP UP article will be published in December 2012.

Interspersed between RAMP UP articles will be supplementary articles and complementary fact sheets to provide additional information to help facilitate the migration to ICD-10. And we will continue to provide "fun fact sheets", bringing to light some of the more unusual codes in ICD-10 with a touch of humor.

Together, we will RAMP UP to a successful ICD-10 implementation.