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RAMP UP to ICD-10: Research

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

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 myriad activities that need to be done in the coming months. The first step in the process to *RAMP UP* to ICD-10 is **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.

The International Classification of Diseases (ICD) was developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) for use worldwide. The ICD system was first implemented in the United States in 1979. ICD-9-CM Diagnoses are used by all types of providers. ICD-9-CM Procedures are used only by inpatient hospitals.

However, ICD-9-CM was not designed to provide the level of detail necessary for today’s healthcare environment. Its functionality has been exhausted by efforts to continue to add codes to describe new procedures and diagnoses.

ICD-10 is much more specific than ICD-9. It is more clinically accurate and uses a more logical structure.

ICD-10 is not new. It was endorsed by the World Health Assembly in 1990 (for diagnoses) and the full version was released by the WHO in 1994. It is currently in use worldwide.

There are a number of benefits associated with the use of ICD-10, including:

- Enhanced accuracy in payment for services rendered
- Improved evaluation of medical processes and outcomes
- Improved quality measurements and patient safety
- More precise identification of diagnoses and procedures (including laterality)
- Room to expand and easier to use than ICD-9

Implementation of ICD-10 may present some challenges to providers, among them:

- Medical record and billing system software may need to be upgraded to accommodate the new standards
- Clinical and administrative staff will need training on the new code sets
- Business processes and workflow may need to be modified
- Vendor interfaces may need to be updated

We’ll be with you every step of the way as you navigate your *RAMP UP* to ICD-10.

Why is this critical to ICD-10 transition?

Without a thorough understanding of the rationale and requirements behind the migration from ICD-9 to ICD-10, organizations may not fully appreciate the implications of the forthcoming changes, in terms of their technical systems and business operations. This could result in inadequate time and resources allotted to complete the migration on schedule, and/or an incomplete and ineffective implementation of ICD-10.

To adequately assess the depth and breadth of the impact of ICD-10 on your organization, and to ensure that the scope of the changes you undertake do not exceed what is necessary, it pays to do your research in advance.

Contact Us:

Visit <http://ncmmis.ncdhhs.gov/icd10.asp> for more information about the NCTracks transition to ICD-10 or to contact the ICD-10 Project Team

Steps to complete this activity:

1. Review the materials available at the CMS ICD-10 website (see sidebar), in particular the Implementation Guides under Provider Resources
2. Sign up for the CMS ICD-10 Industry Email Updates
3. Contact your provider association to determine if they may be helping their members to facilitate preparations for the migration to ICD-10
4. Establish a communication mechanism for you to regularly share information regarding ICD-10 with the other stakeholders in your organization
5. Develop a high level plan for ICD-10 implementation, including each of the stages of the RAMP UP process and the resources required to support both system and business process remediation
6. Plan for change. Your business will not stand still while you are progressing through the migration to ICD-10. Set periodic milestones to make adjustments based on industry changes
7. Start now. Take advantage of the extended deadline to ensure your organization and staff are ready for ICD-10

Resources for Additional Information

CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services): The CMS site contains extensive resources for Providers, Payers, and Vendors that include updates about the ICD-10 requirements, activity timelines, answers to frequently asked questions, educational material, and the General Equivalence Maps. Providers will find step-by-step plans specific to large and small/medium practices.

CMS ICD-10 Website:

<http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/index.html?redirect=/ICD10>

Link sign up for email updates about ICD-10 from CMS:

http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/CMS_ICD-10_Industry_Email_Updates.html

WEDI (Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange): The WEDI organization is dedicated to improving the administrative efficiency, quality, and cost effectiveness of the healthcare industry through the use of technology. WEDI publishes newsletters, bulletins, and resource directories, detailed coding information.

<http://www.wedi.org/index.shtml>

NCHICA (The North Carolina Healthcare Information and Communications Alliance): A Nonprofit consortium dedicated to assisting members in accelerating transformation of healthcare through the use of technology. The NCHICA provides information and training about the ICD-10 transition. A Taskforce is focused specifically on ICD-10 implementation efforts.

<http://www.nchica.org/>

Comparing ICD-9 to ICD-10 Diagnosis Code Formats

