



**news**

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**ICD-10 Transition Essential to Meeting  
National Healthcare Initiatives**

*AHIMA Contributes Expertise on Achieving a Successful ICD-10 Transition to National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics Subcommittee*

**Washington, D.C. (Feb. 20, 2014)** – ICD-10 implementation is critical to the healthcare industry and its more robust and detailed data will help meet the goals of national healthcare initiatives, according to testimony presented by Meryl Bloomrosen, MBA, RHIA, FAHIMA, [American Health Information Management Association](#) (AHIMA) vice president, Thought Leadership, Practice Excellence and Public Policy to the Standards Subcommittee of the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS) on Wednesday.

Bloomrosen discussed industry readiness, outlined steps for a smooth transition and listed the myriad ways AHIMA is helping stakeholders with their preparations. AHIMA applauded the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) announcement that it will be conducting end-to-end ICD-10 testing.

“The increasing demands for high-quality data set the stage for innovation and transformation, and illustrate the importance of improving clinical documentation,” Bloomrosen said. “Many healthcare goals rely on the specificity ICD-10 provides and soon the industry will more fully realize the benefits of having the most up-to-date, detailed data. While the transition will bring initial challenges, previous studies and analyses have concluded the benefits significantly outweigh the costs. AHIMA remains committed to providing help, guidance and education so the industry can meet the October 1, 2014 deadline and begin realizing the substantial rewards.”

Bloomrosen said hospitals, health plans and other stakeholders appear to be on track for the transition, while some non-hospital providers, particularly small providers, are behind. Bloomrosen encouraged providers to invest in ICD-10 coding education and training for staff and streamline workflow process to mitigate the potential for productivity losses during the transition.

“Effective use of technology, ICD-10 coding education and training as well as advance planning are essential steps to a smooth transition to ICD-10,” Bloomrosen said.

As the industry leader in the transition to ICD-10, AHIMA is participating in the ICD-10 Implementation Success Initiative, comprised of a coalition of ICD-10 stakeholder organizations, including CMS and the Workgroup for Electronic Data Exchange (WEDI) to ensure the smooth transition to ICD-10. Bloomrosen added, “Today, AHIMA reconfirmed that our Component State Associations (CSAs) are well positioned to work with physician practices to provide implementation assistance. AHIMA was especially pleased to hear about the training and technical assistance that CMS has recently launched for small providers across the country.” On April 22-23, AHIMA will host its annual [2014 ICD-10-CM/PCS and Computer-Assisted Coding \(CAC\) Summit: Final Countdown to Compliance](#) in Washington, D.C.

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#### **About AHIMA**

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) is the premier professional association and represents more than 71,000 health information management and health informatics professionals in the United States and around the world. AHIMA is committed to promoting and advocating for high quality research, best practices and effective standards in health information and to actively contributing to the development and advancement of health information professionals worldwide. AHIMA’s enduring goal is quality healthcare through quality information. [www.ahima.org](http://www.ahima.org)