



news

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ICD-10 at Six Months

AHIMA pleased with smooth transition to the modern, more granular code set

CHICAGO – March 31, 2016 – Six months have passed since ICD-10 was implemented on Oct. 1, 2015, and the [American Health Information Management Association](#) (AHIMA) is pleased to see the way the healthcare community has transitioned to the new code set.

“As a long-time leader and advocate for ICD-10, it is exciting and rewarding that all stakeholders now have the opportunity to fully benefit from a modern and robust coding system that is able to meet 21st century health challenges,” said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA. “While there have been the expected small pockets of problems that are inevitable with a change of this magnitude, it’s clear that the overall transition has been extremely smooth and devoid of major issues.”

AHIMA attributes this success to a number of factors including provider preparation, training, collaboration and extensive dual coding leading up to the implementation deadline. This success is borne out by a Feb. 24 [blog post](#) from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Service (CMS) that detailed how the claims denial rates for the fourth quarter of 2015 were actually slightly lower than historical rates.

“The greater detail in ICD-10 will more effectively measure quality, safety and efficacy of care and reduce fraud,” Thomas Gordon said. “It will help reverse the trend of deteriorating health data and tell a patient story that is more accurate and complete. This will ultimately help lead to what everyone wants – improved patient care and better health outcomes at reduced cost.”

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About AHIMA

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) represents more than 103,000 health information 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