

Update ICD-10-CM/PCS Delay

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released the following news item regarding the ICD-10 implementation date:

“On April 1, 2014, the Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014 (PAMA) (Pub. L. No. 113-93) was enacted, which said that the Secretary may not adopt ICD-10 prior to October 1, 2015. Accordingly, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services expects to release an interim final rule in the near future that will include a new compliance date that would require the use of ICD-10 beginning October 1, 2015. The rule will also require HIPAA covered entities to continue to use ICD-9-CM through September 30, 2015.”

The Cooperating Parties have reviewed the original plan not to address any ICD-9-CM questions and have decided to uphold the plan and go forward with only providing advice on ICD-10-CM/ICD-10-PCS (ICD-10) for the following reasons:

- With an ICD-10 implementation date of next year, and the remaining scheduled EAB meetings, we would be “closing” ICD-9-CM questions again almost as soon as we “re-opened” them.
- As hospitals and other providers continue their preparations for ICD-10, many will continue dual-coding to ensure ICD-10 trained coders increase their accuracy and proficiency and will require assistance with ICD-10 questions.
- There has been a significant shift from ICD-9-CM to ICD-10 in the questions received by our clearinghouse since we started providing ICD-10 advice in 2012, to the point that last year an overwhelming majority of the questions were related to ICD-10.

By focusing our time and attention on ICD-10 questions, we can better address ICD-10 issues in advance of implementation and ensure a smoother ICD-10 transition.

