

The ICD-10 Delay: What Are Inova's Plans?

Background

On April 1, President Obama signed into law a bill that will delay the mandated conversion to ICD-10 for one year, setting the compliance date to no sooner than Oct. 1, 2015. The delay was incorporated into a much larger bill – the "doc fix" bill. By putting off what may be a very expensive transition for physicians to ICD-10, Congress hoped to soften the blow of the sustained growth rate (SGR) formula and other physician payment revisions. This is the second time ICD-10 implementation has been delayed.

What does this mean for Inova's ICD-10 conversion efforts?

Like most other health systems, Inova was surprised by this most recent delay. However, we will continue all work related to ICD-10 to include educating coders and familiarizing physicians with ICD-10's expanded documentation requirements. Additionally, we will continue to provide information and training to independent physicians as they roll out ICD-10 in their offices. Here are some reasons why we have chosen to stay the course with ICD-10:

- We want to keep the momentum going that we have already built
- We have already invested large amounts of time, money and resources (i.e., technology, training, tools etc.). Staying on course keeps our incremental costs related to the delay as low as possible
- We want to keep the focus on improving documentation and preparing our physicians – both of which benefit patients and physicians, regardless of ICD-10

What are the benefits of continuing on with our current ICD-10 plan?

Inova will still benefit from the investments it has made and continues to make related to the ICD-10 conversion, particularly as we perform dual coding.

- The Clinical Documentation Improvement program (CDI), a key component of ICD-10 physician education, is valuable under ICD-9 as well. All along, Inova's physician outreach has focused on improving documentation, not on the actual coding
- Improved documentation provides a better picture of our patient population for severity of illness and risk of mortality as well as appropriate classification of complications
- Improved documentation leads to improved measurement of quality outcomes
- Dual coding in this interim year will provide us with analytics for seeing where the documentation gaps lie with ICD-10 and ability to calculate financial impact
- Inova will be ahead of the curve when the ICD-10 transition does occur. We will have had an extra year to learn and practice.

What's Next?

An updated schedule of training and speakers will be coming out soon. Watch for updates. Contact Pat Jones at patricia.jones@inova.org.