



NEWSFLASH!

To: Our Valued Client
From: Colleen M. Walters, MAHCM
Subject: ICD-10 Delayed unit October 2014
Date: August 27, 2012

The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced today that the controversial code system change has been delayed again.

According to the August 27, 2012 version of Medscape Today, “The American Medical Association and other medical societies told HHS that converting to the more voluminous and complicated set of diagnostic codes could cost medical practices tens of thousands of dollars and interfere with their migration to electronic health records and electronic prescribing. These groups have called on HHS to come up with a simpler replacement for the current set of diagnostic codes — called ICD-9 — now in use.

ICD-10 stands for the *International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision*. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) mandated the switch from ICD-9 to ICD-10 as part of implementing the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. HHS considers ICD-9 outdated and imprecise.

ICD-10 contains 68,000 diagnosis codes, which is roughly 5 times the number in ICD-9. The new codes also run to a maximum of 7 characters compared with 5 in the current codes.”

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