



INDUSTRY INSIGHT

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AHIMA AND AHA RELEASE ICD-10-CM FIELD TEST RESULTS

On September 25, 2003, the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), in conjunction with the American Hospital Association (AHA), released findings from a field test of ICD-10-CM medical code sets. This field test was conducted by AHIMA members from all types of healthcare settings. The findings indicate that ICD-10-CM represents a significant improvement over the current ICD-9-CM coding system and can be implemented without excessive staff training costs or changes in documentation practices. A total of 6,177 medical records were coded using ICD-10-CM. Project participants, which included 169 coding professionals from a variety of clinical settings, generally agree that ICD-10-CM is an improvement over ICD-9-CM and advocate migrating to the new system in three years or less.

Participants provided the following additional feedback:

- The clinical descriptions of the ICD-10-CM were better than ICD-9-CM;
- The notes, instructions, and guidelines in ICD-10-CM were clear and comprehensive;
- 16 hours or less of training would be necessary prior to implementation;
- Face-to-face ICD-10-CM training was the preferred method of training; and
- Training should be provided three months prior to ICD-10-CM implementation.

According to the report there were no differences in the amount of time spent coding using ICD-10-CM, as compared to ICD-9-CM, for more than half of the records sampled and coded. It was also reported that ICD-10-CM codes can be applied to medical records in a variety of health care settings without having to change documentation practices. In some instances, it was reported that improved documentation would have resulted in higher coding specificity and therefore improved data quality. The potential implementation of ICD-10-CM will be discussed at the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics (NCVHS) on Tuesday, November 5 and 6, 2003 in Washington, DC.

If you have questions regarding this Industry Insight, please contact our Client Services Department at 1-800-999-DRGS (3747) or at support@hss-info.com. For a copy of the ICD-9-CM Field Testing Project, visit the HSS web site (www.hssweb.com). **HSSweb** is updated on a regular basis with new and timely **Industry Insights**, as well as access to source documents.