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Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 1:58 PM
To: ICD10.Contacts@lists.ncmail.net
Subject: [Icd10.contacts] FW: CMS Will "Reexamine" ICD-10 Timeline

The American Medical Association House of Delegates voted to 'work vigorously' to stop implementation of ICD-10 and this was followed up by a letter from AMA to Speaker of the House Boehner. In the message below you can see that CMS has agreed to 'reexamine' the timeline and then the response from the American Health Information Management Association. This was discussed today at the NCALHD Technology Committee and I told them that DPH will move forward to meet the mandated date of October 1, 2013. I think it is clear from the CMS response that they will not consider moving away from ICD-10 (which is used worldwide) but they may consider a delay. I just wanted you to be aware in case you start reading about the AMA request.

The DPH ICD-10-CM Implementation Team will be meeting on Monday and several key deliverables will be reviewed: Project Schedule (includes dates when deliverables will be available to ICD-10 contacts), Education Matrix (recommendations for the type of training needed based on staff roles), and the Business Impact Assessment. As soon as these are approved by the Implementation Team, they will be sent to you. I hope your agency is moving forward with the formation of ICD-10 Implementation Teams as recommended in the ICD-10 Implementation Planning training. If you missed the training, the slides and the recorded presentation are located on the ICD-10 website .

If you have any questions related to ICD-10, please feel free to contact me. I am normally in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays. Thanks!

CMS Will "Reexamine" ICD-10 Timeline (Information from American Health Information Management Association (AMIMA))

In an address to the American Medical Association's advocacy conference Tuesday, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) acting administrator Marilyn Tavenner told attendees that CMS would "reexamine" the timeline for ICD-10-CM/PCS implementation.

Tavenner offered no details on what CMS would consider or when it would do so. She did say that CMS would make an announcement in the coming days.

Tavenner announced CMS's intention to reconsider the timeline—not its decision to delay or extend it—so it is possible that CMS will keep the current schedule. It is therefore very important that the industry not delay its current efforts toward completing the ICD-10-CM/PCS implementation by October 1, 2013.

AHIMA's Response

AHIMA is responding to the CMS administrator and other Health and Human Services (HHS) senior officials, expressing its concern over the turmoil this statement has caused and recommending that CMS make clear that the industry should not halt its progress on ICD-10 implementation while the timeline is being reexamined.

"This is a promise from CMS to examine the timeline, not to change it," said Dan Rode, MBA, CHPS, FHFMA, vice president for advocacy and policy at AHIMA. "But government officials are sending mixed signals that many in the healthcare community will interpret as a reason for delay. This concerns AHIMA and our constituents, as any delay in the transition preparation for ICD-10 will both increase actual costs and may diminish the value of other Health and Human Services (HHS) programs, including Meaningful Use."

"We need to keep our eyes on the ultimate goal of ICD-10 implementation," said Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, FACHE, CEO of AHIMA. "There are tremendous long-term benefits that will come from the use of a 21st Century classification system, such as ICD-10, to both healthcare providers and patients. AHIMA urges all in the healthcare community to continue with their ICD-10 planning efforts."

In the wake of today's announcement, AHIMA will provide comments to the CMS administrator highlighting areas of concern, especially as they relate to the investment that has already been made by many healthcare providers, health plans, public health and quality organizations, as well as HHS itself.

"AHIMA members across the country have reached out to assist those who need help in understanding ways to implement ICD-10, but the government and industry must also understand that huge investments have been made in good faith since early 2009 to meet the current deadlines and accomplish the goal of quality, efficient healthcare through the use of quality health information," Rode said.