

April 2, 2014: Delay Signed Into Law

From Sarah Brooks: On April 1, 2014, President Obama signed the legislation that includes the ICD-10 delay clause. Please understand that anyone involved with the ICD-10 transition was not expecting a delay so it will take time for various organizations/agencies to re-group. In particular, the industry is waiting for CMS and their guidance. I do not want to bombard you with information unless it is critical to your current operations. I will share any new information I have during the webinars that are discussed below. If you have any questions in the interim, please feel free to contact me.

Class Registrations: All ICD-10-CM Coding training classes scheduled for April and May 2014 have been cancelled and removed from SignUpGenius and the State's LMS.

- State employees: You should receive cancellation notification for any of the April or May courses you registered for. Don't forget to remove these from your calendar.
- For local agencies: You will not receive notification so be sure to remove any of the April or May courses you registered for from your calendar.

I have received several requests to move forward with the training. This will be discussed at the April 21st DPH ICD-10 Implementation Team meeting. If a decision is made to offer training in 2014 and then further training in 2015, the earliest the training would be offered is June 2014.

Webinars for Local Health Department ICD-10 Implementation Team members: DPH ICD-10 Implementation Project plan changes will be reviewed during the webinar sessions I will conduct in May. Multiple sessions will be offered so schedules can be accommodated but team members only need to attend one session. Registration will not be necessary. The Webinars will be scheduled for 90 minutes but will probably be shorter depending upon the number of questions local agencies have. Any attendees who prefer to participate face-to-face are welcome to come to the DPH Computer Training Room, (2nd Floor), 5605 Six Forks Rd., Raleigh, NC

- For the webinar, call **1-888-363-4734 (Access Code: 2142113#)**
- The URL is <https://dhhs.ncgovconnect.com/icd10cm/>

Webinar Dates/Times are as follows: May 7, 2015 (1:00pm-2:30pm) and (3:00pm-4:30pm); May 12, 2014 (10:30am-12:00noon) and (3:00pm-4:30pm)

For CDSAs, webinar dates will be announced at a later time.

Purchase of Code Books: If you have not already purchased ICD-10-CM code books for your agency, I recommend you hold off purchasing code books until decisions are made about offering coding training classes in 2014. For those agencies that have already purchased code books in preparation for the training, the books will be able to be used for training once it is re-scheduled.

I have also received questions about the purchase of ICD-9 code books. I would not purchase new code books at this time. The Coordination and Maintenance Committee which approves coding changes will need to address the code freeze currently in place. I do not anticipate any decisions on this right away.

March 21, 2014: Update - Possible Delay Announcement

From Sarah Brooks: The US Senate passed the bill that includes a 1 year delay in ICD-10 implementation and President Obama is expected to sign the bill into law. There are certainly outstanding questions related to this change and hopefully CMS will provide some guidance. However, I think it is best for everyone if we now move forward with a new timeline. To that end, these are immediate actions that will take place:

1. The scheduled **ICD-10-CM coding training classes will be postponed** so staff should be informed that there is no need to continue the registration process.
2. I will conduct webinars in April or May to discuss changes in the current implementation plan and solicit feedback regarding next steps.

To say I am disappointed in another delay is an understatement; however, there are certainly positives related to the delay. I think the major advantage will be the additional time for testing with trading partners as well as working with the changes made to your practice management software (e.g., HIS) to accommodate ICD-10-CM. I certainly encourage agencies to continue your ICD-10 implementation activities. The change is coming but now we just have more time to implement the changes. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. More to come - Thanks!

March 28 , 2014: Possible Delay Announcement

From Sarah Brooks: I wanted to make you aware that yesterday the US House of Representatives passed a bill, H.R. 4302 - Protecting Access to Medicare, containing language that would delay the implementation of ICD-10-CM/PCS for one year. This bill has now been referred to the US Senate for consideration and it is anticipated that the bill will be voted on in the Senate on Monday. The bill mainly adjusts the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) for physician Medicare payments. But section 212 of the bill also states that the Department of Health and Human Services cannot implement the ICD-10 code set until October 1, 2015—a year later than the current date of October 1, 2014. This provision was added at the last minute so I can assure you I was unaware of this when I sent out the training registration information. There is a grass roots effort underway to try and remove the ICD-10 language from the bill so we will have to wait and see what the Senate does.

I had planned on sending something out after the Senate voted but I have received inquiries from some of you and I know agencies are busy preparing for the training. On Monday, you may want to put ICD-10 activities (e.g., training registration, purchasing code books) on hold until you hear from me. As soon as I learn the outcome of the Senate vote, I will send out a communication. I have already developed an action plan for next steps if the delay becomes a reality so I will share that with you as well. I think we all know that the transition to ICD-10 is not a simple task and I am confident that the work you have done to date will not be wasted time. Instead, if the delay is approved, it will give everyone more time to make sure their systems are ready, test internally as well as externally, and practice with the new code set.