

Insights to Coding and Data Quality

CHIA participates in California ICD-10 Collaborative

by Debi Primeau, MA, RHIA, FAHIMA

The implementation of ICD-10 is reported to be among the most significant change to health care since the implementation of IPPS, with providers and payers scrambling to meet the CMS compliance date of October 1, 2014. Industry experts have reported a significant slowdown over this past summer due to the February CMS announced delay of the implementation compliance date by one year. In addition, there is a perception that health plans are ahead of providers in their ICD-10 planning efforts. Since the CMS announcement this past August, readiness activities for many providers and payers have showed renewed energy, although there still seems to be areas where ICD-10 readiness is either moving very slowly or is not occurring at all, especially for smaller independent physician offices, rural providers, and critical access hospitals. To further complicate the implementation efforts, there remains a lot of ambiguity around the need for readiness assessments, the impact of implementation efforts, and the ability to secure the appropriate resources and funding to meet the regulatory requirements, as well as the significant competing priorities of electronic health records, Meaningful Use, and accountable-care organizations.

Providers and payers are seeking solutions and are looking for ways to collaborate to minimize misinformation and duplication of efforts, as well as further define and streamline testing scenarios. To this end, a number of states have developed ICD-10 Collaboratives. These states' ICD-10 Collaboratives consist of providers, payers, and vendors who work together to improve communication and coordinate efforts to better meet the implementation of ICD-10. In Southern California initial interest and discussions surrounding a collaborative began in February 2012. With the CMS announcement of the new date for ICD-10 compliance, the collaborative efforts were re-energized and the Hospital Association of Southern California and St. Joseph's Health System agreed to co-sponsor an inaugural meeting to determine if an ICD-10 Collaborative would be of interest to the attendees represented by providers, health plans, and professional association representatives. **LaVonne LaMoreaux, RHIA, CAE**, and **Debi Primeau, MA, RHIA, FAHIMA**, were invited to attend the ICD-10 Collaborative meeting in southern California as representatives for the California Health Information Association (CHIA).

During the meeting, held in Mission Viejo on October 18, 2012, the 27 attendees discussed the state of the industry, reviewed existing state collaborative efforts and organizational structures, and brainstormed ideas on a California Collaborative Vision, Mission, and Goals, organizational structure and operating model. At the conclusion of this meeting, the attendees unanimously agreed to the value of the development of an ICD-10 Collaborative, determined the Collaborative should be statewide and not just a Southern California Collaborative, drafted the Vision, Mission, Goals, and organizational structure; and scheduled the next meeting. CHIA will continue to have representation on the California ICD-10 Collaborative and will ensure our CHIA membership has a voice during the Collaborative meetings as well as provide valuable communication from the collaborative to our CHIA membership. If you have any questions about the California ICD-10 Collaborative, please contact Debi Primeau, MA, RHIA, FAHIMA, at <dprimeau@phiconsult.net>.

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December 2012/January 2013 *CHIA Journal*, p 3
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