

ICD-10 Advocacy

ICD-10 Advocacy now more than ever!

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As health information management (HIM) coding professionals and leaders we need to make our voices and messages heard regarding implementation of ICD-10 in 2015. We need to be extremely proactive in light of recent bills in both the House and Senate opposing ICD-10 implementation. The House bill is HR 1701 and the Senate bill is S 972; both of these are asking for a stop to ICD-10.

Improvement in code specificity is key for many diseases, e.g., Alzheimer's, where every 67 seconds someone in the United States develops this disease. Almost two-thirds of those who have Alzheimer's in the United States are WOMEN! ICD-10 is about the patient's story through the classification system

You are the voice of our profession and we need you now more than ever to speak out through social media and speak to our political representatives. Messaging about ICD-10 includes: **ICD-10 improves quality of care, is more clinically relevant than ICD-9-CM, better reflects clinical severity and complexity and is a more accurate representation of provider performance.** We need ICD-10 in 2015. Oppose any further delays in the implementation of this code set.

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) has a quick and easy process for you to use in sending your comments and support for ICD-10 to the legislators. AHIMA's Advocacy Action Center offers a pre-written editable electronic letter that you can sign and send directly to the legislators in your state.

Immediate two steps you should take:

- **Visit AHIMA's Advocacy Action Center today** to send your letter <http://capwiz.com/ahima/issues/alert/?alertid=63175786>.
- **Visit AHIMA's Advocacy Action Center today** to send your e-mail message.

For California please e-mail AND call:

- U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA)
- U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)

Also contact your local area representative and ask for them NOT to support HR 1701. Provide them with this message, ***"ICD-10 improves quality of care, is more clinically relevant than ICD-9-CM, better reflects clinical severity, acuity and complexity of patients, AND is a more accurate representation of provider performance. We need ICD-10 in 2015. Please oppose any further delays in the implementation of this code set."***

Now is the time to come to the aid of our profession and ICD-10! Even if you sent an e-mail or letter before do it again, consistent and repeated messaging helps. Use AHIMA's online Advocacy Assist and let your voices be heard!

Reference

<http://capwiz.com/ahima/home/>

http://www.alz.org/alzheimers_disease_facts_and_figures.asp

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