

ICD-10 Q&A 3-31-11

Question

With the Coder's Roadmap that you are showing, will AAPC be offering classes/training for each of the steps? Will CEU's be offered for these steps, because I see that CEU's will not be given for the Proficiency Assessment.

Answer

AAPC will offer training on each step and they will be available for CEU's. CEU's are not given for any exam.

What are the exact differences in coding rules between ICD-9 and ICD-10. What are additions to the guidelines?

There are many differences in coding guidelines that can only be taught in trainings. You can find information in some differences each month in the ICD-10 Connect newsletter or on our website under resources

Can you explain a bit about what we need to do to remain certified with the implementation ICD-10.

Each certified coder through the AAPC will need to take an ICD-10 proficiency assessment. This assessment consists of 75 questions and is open book, online, unproctored and you may use any resource available. It is \$60 for two attempts and can be taken anytime beginning October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2014. There are no CEU's for assessment exams.

Can the five step program be taken online?

All trainings offered by the AAPC will be available via inperson and online.

Are there a specific amount of digits (letter or numbers) used for all icd-10 codes?

ICD-10-CM codes can be between 3 and 7 characters

My understanding is there will be very few new ICD9 codes added this year. So, if I wanted to request a new ICD-10 code, will the process for submission be different than it is currently for ICD-9?

No, the process is the same for code change submission

Can we have more details regarding the proficiency exam?

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Will the AAPC host ICD-10 free or low cost training?	The AAPC will continue to offer free webinars through local chapters, Q&A sessions as well as resources on our website and through our ICD-10 Connect Newsletter
What training (webinars) will be offered and will there be any low cost courses available	The AAPC will continue to offer free webinars through local chapters, Q&A sessions as well as resources on our website and through our ICD-10 Connect Newsletter
How much does the 2 day implementation boot camp cost? How much does the recertification testing cost?	For members the two day boot camp is \$895 which includes, breakfast, ICD-10-CM, the AAPC ICD-10 Implementation manual and a CD with tools and resource on it.
What training would you advise to become an I-10 Trainer? Is the boot camp sufficient?	It would depend on your level of experience and which parts of ICD-10 you would want to train.
Will advanced anatomy and physiology be required to be successful for ICD-10 transition?	ICD-10-CM codes have a higher level of specificity and codes have been reclassified. It is strongly recommended that any coder who is weak in Anatomy and Physiology take a course geared towards A&P training to make the transition smoother
Our vendor states they have an update available which will meet the 5010 requirements. What is the next step once this has been downloaded? Do we need to contact or insurance carriers to test the format?	Contact your clearinghouse for testing, if you do not use a clearinghouse you will want to speak individually to all the plans you submit electronically to for individual testing. Testing is an important part of implementation.
Will CEU requirements change once we are certified for ICD10?	No, CEU requirements will not change
ICD-10 PCS for hospital procedure service. Question: My group employes around 55 hospitalist physicians. Will the services performed by these hospitalist fall under the ICD-10 PCS?	Professional services will continue to be submitted with CPT
When will you stop offering the ICD-9 certification?	Each certified coder through the AAPC will need to take an ICD-10 proficiency assessment. This assessment consists of 75 questions and is open book, online, unproctored and you may use any resource available. It is \$60 for two attempts and can be taken anytime beginning October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2014. There are no CEU's for assessment exams. The time length is not yet determined.
will there be classes offered for the icd 10 proficiency exam	Yes, AAPC will offer all levels of trainings
How much will training cost for the classes and exam?	Training costs vary depending on the type of training you choose to take and how many steps you will need

I do diagnosis coding for laboratory testing to meet medical necessity, do you know when CMS will have the NCD manual up dated to ICD10?	At this time CMS has not published timelines for these updates.
I will be sitting for the CPC exam in May - should I immediately study for, and then sit for, ICD-10?	You may choose to wait until closer to implementation if you will not be working in ICD-10 right away. You may be unable to retain the information if not used in a long period of time.
Is the General ICD 10 code set training available online through AAPC?	Yes, the AAPC will offer the General code set training online as well as inperson.
When training physicians and clinical staff the use of ICD-10 vs ICD-9, will there be any material made available from the Academy to assist with this task?	We currently have resources available in our Implementation boot camps as well as with our ICD-10 implementation tracker tool that is found in your member area.
when will CMS announce the ICD10 codes for Risk Adjustment HCC methodology	At this time CMS has not published timelines for these updates.
Due to all of the extra ICD-10 codes, will we have to pay more for the ICD-10 books?	We can not attest to what vendor prices will be but the books that are available now are not much different in cost.
Will the AAPC or anyone else be offering anatomy classes for non-coders who may need to work with ICD10. How can we assist non coders in our clinical offices or our accounts receivable personnel?	Yes, we will offer courses on A&P that is geared specifically toward ICD-10-CM that would be of benefit to non coders and A/R personnel.
How should an organization start the implementation process?	Great information can be found in our implementation boot camps as well as in the ICD-10 implementation tracker tool that can be found in your member area.
Have you researched what impact ICD10 will have to production on a short term and then on a long term basis? If so, what were the findings?	There are studies that show productivity losses from 6 months to years, however, other countries who have implemented have been single payer countries and not like the multi payer system we have in the USA. Careful preparation is necessary in order to contain productivity losses.
Do you have to take the specialty exam again with the new ICD-10 new codes for any specialty certification you already have?	No, there will be no need to retake any certification exams.
Are they a ICD10 draft we can view online?	Yes, the draft guidelines can be found at: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd/icd10cm.htm

We're encouraging A&P focus prep for ICD-10 with coders, compliance and billers, but will start an introduction to ICD-10-CM to the Physician Organization members, admins, billing, coding etc. in August and September. Is that reasonable? I have attended to AHIMA I10 Academy and have instructor tools to facilitate the training. I am hearing of resistance that it will be too much to balance ICD-9/CPT4 and ICD-10 CM/PCS which tend to disagree with. I would not want to have a rushed introduction. We want to thorough and complete. Thoughts?

Yes, that time frame for A&P training is reasonable. Also a training on the history, format and structure of ICD-10 would be reasonable so that impact assessments could begin.

What dates did you say the code freeze was going to take place?

There will be a partial code freeze for ICD-10 beginning October 1, 2012. The last regular, annual updates to both ICD-9-CM and ICD-10 will be made on October 1, 2011. On October 1, 2012 and October 1, 2013, there will be only limited code updates to both ICD-9-CM and ICD-10 code sets to capture new technology and new diseases.

Will you need separate CEU's for the ICD-10

No, you will not be required to have additional CEU's

Will ICD-10 be updated every year like ICD-9?

Yes, once the code set freeze is over the codes will be updated each year

How much will the ICD10 proficiency exam cost?

\$60 for two attempts

Can you explain please the "X" placeholder in the ICD-10 system?

Some codes require a 7th character extension in ICD-10-CM, if a code does not contain 6 characters they a "dummy" placeholder of "x" would be utilized to maintain the 7th character extension.

Can we begin to study now?

Yes, there are many ways you can begin to prepare and become informed now, including the AAPC website, CMS website and the ICD-10 Connect newsletter

Has there been any communication from CMS regarding a grace period following Oct 1,2013

CMS has indicated in their FAQ's that there will be no delay in implementation of ICD-10

are there any course study books available at this point

AAPC has ICD-10 implementation manuals that are included in the two day boot camps as well as online courses available now.

will the cms 1500 need to change or will this form stay the same and allow for the additional digits?

NUCC is currently in discussions to discuss revisions, however, no revision is necessary to fit the ICD-10-CM code.

What will be the effect on productivity due to the transition to ICD 10?	There are studies that show productivity losses from 6 months to years, however, other countries who have implemented have been single payer countries and not like the multi payer system we have in the USA. Careful preparation is necessary in order to contain productivity losses.
Will they provide a ICD10 pocket size book for each specialty to help providers code commonly used dx in the practice?	AAPC is currently developing specialty specific cross walks for ICD-10-CM
I am a billing manager w/a cpc and cpc-h. What would be the best way for me to learn icd-10	The AAPC Coders Roadmap offers great suggestions for training.
Any suggestions on how to train providers on the specificity of the diagnoses required to able to utilize ICD-10?	ICD-10 Readiness audits are a great beginning. More information can be found at: http://www.aapc.com/ICD-10/documentation-readiness.aspx
Will they provide a ICD10 pocket size book for each specialty to help provider code commonly used dx in the practice?	AAPC is currently developing specialty specific cross walks for ICD-10-CM
I code ED charts and Radiology charts. Will I have to learn IP coding in order to pass the proficiency test?	ICD-10 PCS will not be covered on the ICD-10 proficiency assessment
Will OPS facilities use ICD 10 PCS	If you currently submit ICD-9 Volume 3 you will be required to transition to ICD-10-PCS
What is the difference between ICD-10 CM and ICD-10 PCS? Is one for physician offices and the other for facilities?	ICD-10-PCS will replace ICD-9-CM in all settings. ICD-10-PCS will replace ICD-9-CM volume 3 that is used for inpatient reporting.
When should i order the ICD-10 book? I have a draft. I already started to tranfer and compare the codes we are using for our specialty.	You will want to wait until the code set freeze so that codes are stable.
We are currently on an EMR. Do you know if there are reputable ICD9 to ICD 10 crosswalks for EMR's?	There is no 1:1 mapping/crosswalks available for ICD-9-CM to ICD-10-CM in each coding situation. You will want to do much research before attempting to utilize a crosswalk in your EMR.
How does ICD-10 affect pharmacies?	Pharmacies will be affected by information provided to them for the processing of medications.
Will AAPC have sample test questions available prior to the actual ICD-10 proficiency exam?	Yes, AAPC will offer mock examinations prior to the ICD-10 proficiency exam
Is it really necessary for the doctor to learn ICD-10 if the coder learns it?	Yes, it is necessary for the physician to have an understanding as he is legally liable for all coding.
Based on your address of productivity, should we anticipate hiring additional coders upon ICD-10 implementation?	Some practices may find it necessary to hire additional coders during the transition period until productivity levels return

When will the AAPC stop offering the ICD-9 certification and switch over to ICD-10?	2013
For coders that fail first attempt, is feedback given surrounding the failed area(s)?	Yes, feedback will be given
Will you get the results with corrections on the ICD10 proficiency exam.	Yes, feedback will be given
Can I obtain training through other sources than AAPC, such as AHIMA?	You may receive your training through any method you choose, the AAPC does not mandate who you receive your training from.
Will pharmacology be necessary along with the A/P?	Not necessarily.
As an AAPC Certified Instructor, will AAPC want us to have some type of precompetency in order to teach?	No, there is no requirement for this
Will AAPC be focusing to a large degree on the 1-10-PCS component in connection with the CPC-H credential?	No, an overview will be taught in our CPC-H courses in the same manner as ICD-9-CM Volume 3
I work for an insurance company, How soon do you think they should have ICD-10 Implemented	Most health plans have already begun implementation as all business areas are affected with ICD-10 implementation.
Since you state ICD-9 PCS is for "Inpatient" facilities only, does that mean that a free-standing Ambulatory Surgery Center will utilize CPT codes? As of right now, we have to submit with either/or depending on the insurance carrier.	If you submit ICD-9-CM volume 3 to any carriers now you will need to communicate with them as the expectation would be that you need to submit with ICD-10-PCS beginning October 1, 2013.
With ICD-10 PCS is this for the facilities to submit their charges? Or is this also for the physicians inpatient E&M visits?	ICD-10-PCS will replace ICD-9-CM in all settings. ICD-10-PCS will replace ICD-9-CM volume 3 that is used for inpatient reporting. CPT codes will still be used for physician professional services.
With there being so many codes, is ICD-10 in book format?	Yes, just like you are familiar with now.
I have an ASC and we bill on UB....what changes will be required other than dx codes for I-10?	no other changes will be required for ICD-10
What is the grace period for the use of ICD-9 codes submitted after implementation of the New ICD-10 codes?	CMS has indicated in their FAQ's that there will be no delay in implementation of ICD-10
Have you seen ICD-10 in an EMR in another country. If so how does it compare to the mapping that is currently out there?	I have not seen studies on EMR's in other countries
If the codes are translated to 1 to many, when are those codes available in order see how specific the documentation needs to be	You can find them in the draft code sets either online or from a vendor book.
I currently code ED charts and Radiology charts. Will I have to learn IP coding in order to pass the proficiency test?	No, ICD-10-PCS will not be included on the ICD-10-Proficiency Assessment.

Are there workshops, seminars, training available specifically for physicians thru the AAPC? Is it specialty specific?

Yes, we have a series of 15/15 minute webinars geared towards physicians and administrators that is CME approved. We will roll out specialty specific code set training later in 2011

How about becoming a CM trainer?

AAPC is currently looking for ICD-10 trainers on the West Coast. For more details submit a resume to Rhonda Buckholtz at rhonda.buckholtz@aapc.com

What about outpatient providers...is AAPC offering physician based training?

Yes, we have a series of 15/15 minute webinars geared towards physicians and administrators that is CME approved. We will roll out specialty specific code set training later in 2011