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10 things to know about ICD-10

1. The structure of ICD-10 allows for greater diagnostic specificity and additional flexibility when adding new codes.

2. The codes won't be accepted until the compliance date, but prepping to use the new system can take well over a year.

3. ICD-10 has been used by the World Health Organization since 1994 and the United States is one of the last developed countries to implement the coding system.

4. Because of the highly specific nature of the codes, it should be more difficult for fraudulent claims to be paid.

5. A look at how other countries dealt with ICD-10 implementation indicates that there will likely be a learning curve and loss of productivity, with times for coding, turnaround, etc. frequently doubling.

6. ICD-10-CM will have 68,000 codes, while ICD-9-CM only has 14,000. The ICD-10-PCS will feature 87,000 codes, in contrast to ICD-9-PCS's 4,000 codes.

7. ICD-10 will not begin regular updating until a year after the compliance date.

8. For the purposes of standardization, ICD-10 codes will be required on non-electronic transmissions as well.

9. ICD-10 will not take the place of or alter Current Procedural Terminology or the Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System.

10. General Equivalence Mappings offer payers and practitioners a way to link ICD-10 codes with current ICD-9 codes.

Source: TriZetta

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MAJOR ICD-10 STRATEGIES:

o Reimbursement Management
o Cash Flow Control
o Claims Procedures
o Analytics
o Technology
o Denial Management
o Reserve Management