2/28/2014

As discussed in the November 2013 newsletter we plan to take you step by step to insure a successful transition to ICD-10 coding.

Over the next 9 months we'll guide you monthly on what you should accomplish so it doesn't seem so overwhelming. In order to be successful, however, you must follow the program. If you have already begun, great! If not, you definitely have some work to do but we'll help you through it. In each monthly newsletter we will focus on what you should be concentrating on in the coming month.

Checklist for March 2014

✓ Make sure the assignments from January and February checklist are completed

> Assign an ICD-10 Project Manager
> Order ICD-10 Codebook
> Prepare Financially for October 1, 2014 transition
> Review Charge Slips
> ChartMaker Clinical Users Review the Charge Items Feature
>
> If you missed the previous newsletters they can be found under the STI Customer section of the www.sticomputer.com website. Click on ICD-10 Information.

✓ Contact Payers Regarding Possible Contract Negotiations

The American Medical Association recommends in their Preparing for the ICD-10 Code Set, Fact Sheet 3, "You should also talk to your payers about any possible contract negotiations that may need to be done as a result of moving to the ICD-10 code set. Be sure to ask about any changes they may be making to their review, auditing, coverage and medical policies and how the changes will impact coverage decisions and reporting requirements."

✓ Assess Staff Training Needs

ICD-10 is primarily about documenting the patient's condition properly and since only licensed professionals are permitted to diagnose, they should be educated on the use of ICD-10 codes.

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ICD - 10 News   CMS ICD-10
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www.cms.gov/ICD10

Many ICD-10 codes, more than one third, are identical except for indicating laterality, or whether the right side or the left side of the body is affected. The advantage of ICD-10 codes is that they enable clinicians to capture laterality and other concepts in a standardized way that supports data exchange and interoperability for a more efficient healthcare system.

In February, you should have reviewed your charge slips, identified your most often used ICD-9 codes, and created a list of corresponding ICD-10 codes. Now is the time to review codes that are not used as frequently. Review your daily charge edits for a period of time and review what ICD-9 codes are being entered for billing purposes. If they are not the same ones you've identified on your charge slips, add them to the list and gather the corresponding ICD-10 codes now so that you are prepared for October 1st.

✓ Schedule a Meeting to Review the ICD-9/ICD-10 Code Transition with Your Providers:

After the list is complete, schedule a meeting with your providers so they can begin to familiarize themselves with the ICD-10 coding structure. They may have important feedback on selecting the appropriate codes. Remember, this is a team effort between the providers, billing staff and the ICD-10 Project Manager. Take this time also to gather information on any other documents used for quality and public health reporting , or any other forms used within the office containing diagnosis codes.

Claims Testing with Insurance Carriers

STI will be testing ICD-10 codes with Medicare during the national week of testing, March 3rd through March 7th.   All of our preliminary test files have produced no

errors so our expectation is that we will pass all testing during that week. It will not be necessary for our practices to send test files to the insurance carriers as we will

complete vendor testing with claims sent directly to carriers such as Medicare, Blue Shield and Medicaid and through our clearinghouse, Emdeon.

There are presently no testing dates announced by Blue Shield or Medicaid. We will participate in vendor testing when those dates are available. Currently, Emdeon is involved with internal testing with commercial insurance carriers and will open their site to vendor testing as soon as it is completed.

It is a pleasure to partner with you on your ICD-10 transition. Please visit our website frequently for up to date information, videos and webinar schedules related to ICD-10. Previous newsletters are posted on the site for your convenience.

Future ICD-10 Newsletter topics include

Review ChartMaker Medical Suite upgrade features

Perform ChartMaker Medical Suite upgrade and familiarize yourselves with changes

Practice ICD-10 coding and work through any last minute details

As always continue to Stay Connected with us

 and through our website, sticomputer.com