Psychiatry Coding & Reimbursement Alert

Reader Question: Check if There are any Hiccups in ICD-10 Implementation

Question: Since the ICD-10 implementation on October 1, we have been doing our best to supply the proper diagnosis codes on our claims. We don't know how the practice is doing with the new diagnosis coding system, however, as we have not received any results for claims containing ICD-10 codes from our insurers yet. Has there been any news on how the ICD-10 system is working so far?

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Answer: According to Medicare, ICD-10 is already a smashing success.

Though ICD-10 has only been in play for about six weeks, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is starting to praise it. The agency recently released some stats about the new diagnosis coding system, and those numbers are quite positive.

Between Oct. 1 and Oct. 27, Medicare processed 4.6 million ICD-10 claims per day, and only 10.1 percent of them were denied. Out of the denials, only 0.1 percent were rejected due to an invalid ICD-10 code, and another 2 percent were denied because of incomplete or invalid information. These numbers are consistent with Medicare statistics prior to October.

"CMS has been carefully monitoring the transition and is pleased to report that claims are processing normally," the agency said in the news release.

As the calendar turns, more payers may start returning your claims with ICD-10 codes. And Medicare will be watching to see how practices are doing with the new coding system. If you haven't seen any return claims yet, don't fret; you might not get them for a couple of weeks.

According to the release, "Medicare claims [generally] take several days to be processed and, once processed, Medicare must ⬜ by law ⬜ wait two weeks before issuing a payment. Medicaid claims can take up to 30 days to be submitted and processed by states."

For more information on this, check the link at
https://www.cms.gov/Newsroom/MediaReleaseDatabase/Fact-sheets/2015-Fact-sheets-items/2015-10-29.html.