

## Home Health ICD-9/ICD-10 Alert

### ICD-10: IT'S OFFICIAL -- ICD-10 IS ON ITS WAY

Dial in to learn more during CMS conference call.

After years of stops and starts, it's time to prepare for ICD-10-CM. The final rule for implementing the new diagnosis coding code set went into effect March 17.

Before it could become official, the rule underwent a regulatory review by the new presidential administration. But now the policies in the final rule have been adopted and ICD-10 must be implemented by October 1, 2013.

A major expansion: The new edition of the ICD manual will expand the code set from 17,000 codes, which ICD-9-CM currently has, to more than 155,000 codes, which ICD-10 includes.

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services maintains that ICD-10 will improve claims processing and payment. For example, pressure ulcers are a common condition in elderly Medicare beneficiaries with chronic illnesses, notes the agency in the press release. And under the current ICD-9-CM system, healthcare practitioners can identify the severity or location of a pressure ulcer but the coding system cannot link those elements if the patient has more than one ulcer. Under a single ICD-10 code, a patient's medical history will identify the severity and location of each pressure ulcer.

Sign up now: The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will host the ICD-10-CM/PCS Implementation and General Equivalence Mappings (Crosswalks) National Provider Conference Call on May 19, 2009 from 1:00 p.m. -- 2:30 p.m. ET.

Access conference call discussion materials and registration information can at [www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD10/07a\\_2009\\_CMS\\_Sponsored\\_Calls.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ICD10/07a_2009_CMS_Sponsored_Calls.asp).