

## MDS Alert

### MDS & Billing NEWS

Ready for a whole new diagnosis coding system? The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** has proposed Oct. 1, 2011 as the implementation date for ICD-10. Major changes include an increase in the number of diagnosis codes -- from approximately 13,000 ICD-9-CM codes to 68,000 ICD-10-CM codes.

Good news: Transitioning to ICD-10 won't be all that difficult for nursing homes, although they will need to change their in-house coding for the UB-04, says **Janet Potter**, a consultant with **FR&R Healthcare Consulting** in Deerfield, IL. "And they must make sure their software vendors will be updating on time, or check with a vendor about that when obtaining new software," she says.

"When the implementation date gets close, the facility will probably have some of its key personnel doing coding -- nurses and medical records staff, for example -- attend coding seminars. Those individuals can then do some in-house training."

Resources: Check out the ICD-10-CM codes on the **Centers for Disease Control & Prevention** website (<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/otheract/icd9/icd10cm.htm>). To read the proposed rule for ICD-10, see <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-19298.htm>.