



Five Facts About ICD-10

To help dispel some of the myths surrounding ICD-10, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently talked with providers to identify common misperceptions about the transition to ICD-10. These five facts address some of the common questions and concerns CMS has heard about ICD-10:

1. **The ICD-10 transition date is October 1, 2015.** The government, payers, and large providers alike have made a substantial investment in ICD-10. This cost will rise if the transition is delayed, and further ICD-10 delays will lead to an unnecessary rise in health care costs. Get ready now for ICD-10.
2. **You don't have to use 68,000 codes.** Your practice does not use all 13,000 diagnosis codes available in ICD-9. Nor will it be required to use the 68,000 codes that ICD-10 offers. As you do now, your practice will use a very small subset of the codes.
3. **You will use a similar process to look up ICD-10 codes that you use with ICD9.** Increasing the number of diagnosis codes does not necessarily make ICD-10 harder to use. As with ICD-9, an alphabetic index and electronic tools are available to help you with code selection.
4. **Outpatient E/M codes and office CPT procedure codes are not changing. All diagnosis coding for office visits will change to ICD 10.** The transition to ICD-10 for diagnosis coding and inpatient procedure coding only affects diagnosis coding and does not affect the use of CPT for outpatient and office coding. Your practice will continue to use CPT for procedure coding but will transition to ICD-10 for diagnosis coding.
5. **All Medicare fee-for-service providers have the opportunity to conduct testing with CMS before the ICD-10 transition.** Your practice or clearinghouse can conduct acknowledgement testing at any time with your Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC). Testing will ensure you can submit claims with ICD-10 codes. During a special "acknowledgement testing" week to be held in June 2015, you will have access to real-time help desk support. Contact your MAC for details about testing plans and opportunities.

Keep Up to Date on ICD-10

Visit the CMS [ICD-10 website](#) for the latest news and resources to help you prepare.

For questions or additional information about this article, please contact Janice McDonnell, Compliance Specialist, x4093 jmcdonnell@uchc.edu



The Walk for HIPAA Compliance

UConn Health is launching “walk-throughs” in clinical areas as another method to assure compliance with HIPAA regulations and institutional policies. The monitoring is intended to educate our workforce, reinforce policies and correct deficiencies as needed.

The walkthrough is a great way to observe how we are actually protecting privacy and security of protected health information (PHI). For example:

- **SWIPE FOR ACCESS:** We will survey for appropriate ID badges and whether workforce members are granting potential unauthorized access to individuals not wearing appropriate ID. For example, it may seem a courtesy to hold the door open but if you need to swipe for access to a secured area, this kindness may actually result in a violation of our HIPAA security policies.
- **DUMPSTER DIVING:** The trash is another interest on walk-throughs. Scrap papers or other documents may contain PHI and be inadvertently discarded in the regular trash. Policies require that all paper with PHI be discarded in secure shredding bins.
- **LIGHTS OUT:** We may conduct walk-throughs after office hours to check for security violations after employees have left. Office doors, filing cabinets and desks should be locked, and portable devices (e.g. laptops, flash drives etc.) should be secured.
- **WORKSTATIONS:** There is a lot of electronic and paper PHI that gets managed by our workforce in the course of business. We will see how well that PHI is secured and not accessible by unauthorized individuals and the public, including use of screensavers, PHI on portable devices. Access controls will also be checked to assure passwords are not written down or shared in work areas, and that log-in information matches the current user on a computer.
- **FAX/PRINTER/COPIER:** PHI cannot be left unsecured but that may happen if printers, copiers and fax machines are not placed in secure areas and attended properly.
- **STAFF INTERVIEWS:** To assure compliance with our policies, staff may be queried about common privacy scenarios as to faxing PHI, communicating with friends and family, release of information and observing minimum necessary standards to name a few.

UConn Health is committed to assure privacy of PHI. Walkthrough monitoring is a tool for education and policy reinforcement. We look forward to meeting staff and responding to any questions and concerns they may have as well.

For questions or additional information about this article, please contact Margaret DeMeo, Associate Compliance Officer, 860-679-1226 demeo@uchc.edu

Assignment and Use of Textbooks: Consider the State Code of Ethics

Assigning textbooks or other intellectual property for coursework in the Schools of Medicine and Dental Medicine or the Graduate Program is governed in part by the State Code of Ethics and University policy. Generally, the Code of Ethics prohibits state employees from using their positions to obtain financial gain for themselves, family members or businesses with which they are associated. In a course taught by a faculty member, assigning a required textbook or other intellectual property authored or prepared by that faculty member may be interpreted as acquiring such personal financial gain.

According to University policy [Assignment of Textbooks and other Intellectual Property](#), a faculty member who wishes to assign a textbook or intellectual property he or she has authored must receive prior approval. As an alternative, any financial gain associated with requiring students to use one’s own materials may be directed to a University of Connecticut student scholarship fund, in which case no review is necessary.

Also keep in mind the State Code of Ethics’ parameters for accepting gifts from “prohibited donors”, companies doing business or seeking to do business with UConn Health. Only textbooks or other educational materials valued at less than \$10 may be personally accepted by UConn Health employees from such donors.

For questions related to this policy or other State Code of Ethics provisions, please contact Ginny Pack, UConn Health Ethics Liaison, at (860) 679-1280 or pack@uchc.edu