

## ICD-10 Advocacy

### Getting ICD-10 advocacy in motion

by Gloryanne Bryant, RHIA, CDIP, CCS, CCDS

**W**elcome to the CHIA ICD-10 Advocacy column. This is a new column for the *CHIA Journal* that will continue over the coming months into 2015. Although we have the official implementation date for ICD-10, October 1, 2015, from the Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), there are still political objective and some new bills that have been written to stop the implementation from occurring, hence the need for our advocacy efforts.

The health information management (HIM) profession will need to be extremely proactive in light of recent bills, in both the House and Senate, opposing ICD-10 implementation. The bill in the House is HR 1701 and in the Senate is bill S. 972; both are asking for a stop to ICD-10.

You are the voice of our profession and we need you, now more than ever, to speak out through social media and speak to our political representatives. The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) has developed a quick and easy process available to you to use for sending your comments to the Members of Congress in support of ICD-10. AHIMA's Advocacy Action Center offers a pre-written editable electronic letter that you can sign and send directly to the Members of Congress in your state.

The message about ICD-10 includes: **ICD-10 improves quality of care, is more clinically relevant than ICD-9-CM, better reflects clinical severity and complexity, and is a more accurate representation of provider performance.** We need ICD-10 in 2015. Oppose any further delays in the implementation of this code set.

The immediate two steps you should take:

- **Visit AHIMA's Advocacy Action Center**, <http://capwiz.com/ahima/home/>, today to send your letter
  - **Visit AHIMA's Advocacy Action Center** today to send your e-mail message
- For California please e-mail AND call:
- U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA)
  - U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)

Contact your local area representative and ask them not to support the HR 1701. Provide them with the above message.

Now is the time to come to the aid of our profession and ICD-10!

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