



California Orthopaedic Association

1246 P Street Sacramento, CA 95814
♦ www.coa.org ♦ coa1@pacbell.net
♦ Phone: 916-454-9884 ♦ Fax: 916-454-9882

"Keeping you Active"

TO: COA Members
Orthopaedic Practice Managers

FROM: William Brien, M.D., President

ICD-10 Compliance

In spite of opposition from AAOS, AMA, and other medical organizations, including COA, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) continues to move forward with the implementation of ICD-10 as of October 1, 2015. **CMS has announced that it will allow a one-year grace period during which it will allow flexibility in the claims payment, auditing and quality reporting processes if the ICD-10 code billed is in the same broad family as the correct code. This should help with claims processing and timely payment during this transitional period, but it also continues to reinforce that the implementation of ICD-10 will not be delayed.**

Thank you for your input on how COA can help you in the implementation of ICD-10.

What we learned is:

- It is important for the orthopaedic surgeons and your billing/coding staff to be involved in the training.
- It's difficult to get the entire practice (orthopaedic surgeons and staff) to a course in any one location on any one day.
- Implementation needs in each orthopaedic practice will be different depending on their EMR system, consultant, or other tools that you have employed to help you with the transition.
- More detailed documentation of the service performed will be critical to successful ICD-10 coding.
- End-to-end testing is the only way to absolutely make sure that you are ready to successfully bill using ICD-10.

Taking all of these issues into consideration, rather than hold ICD-10 courses, COA has developed an [ICD-10 Compliance White Paper](#) to reach the maximum number of COA members. The White Paper includes:

- A basic understanding of ICD-10
- Listing of difference and similarities between ICD-10 and ICD-9
- Key readiness areas that are critical to successful implementation
- A list of existing training tools developed by CMS, AHIMA, AAOS and COA
- An answer to many frequently asked questions
- Documentation Templates/Tips to help you improve your documentation
- Orthopaedic coding examples

In addition, to this White Paper, COA is urging CMS and other payors to expand their end-to-end testing to provide more opportunities to test your system and determine whether you will be successful in billing the ICD-10 codes.

Some of you have requested information on consultants who you may be able to bring in-house for your training. COA has worked with two entities that we can recommend to you. Contact them directly to determine their availability and cost of training:

- Mary Jean Sage, The Sage Associates, Pismo Beach – 805-904-6311 mjsage@thesageassociates.com
- KarenZupko & Associates, Chicago – 312-642-5616 <http://karenzupco.com>

Please let us know if you have questions regarding the resources listed in the White Paper.

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2016 Annual Meeting/QME Course

/C-Bones Annual Meeting

May 19-22, 2016

The Ritz-Carlton, Laguna Niguel – Dana Point, CA

AnnualMeeting.coa.org