All Together Now: Planning for ICD-10, ARRA, and the Affordable Care Act

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Back in January 2009, when the deadline for ICD-10-CM/PCS was announced, the path to October 1, 2013, seemed straight and reasonably long. Then came ARRA/HITECH (February 2009), soon followed by the Affordable Care Act (March 2010).

Add in other federal and local regulations that needed HIM attention, and suddenly the path to ICD-10 didn't look as clear as it had. There were now many initiatives traveling the same road.
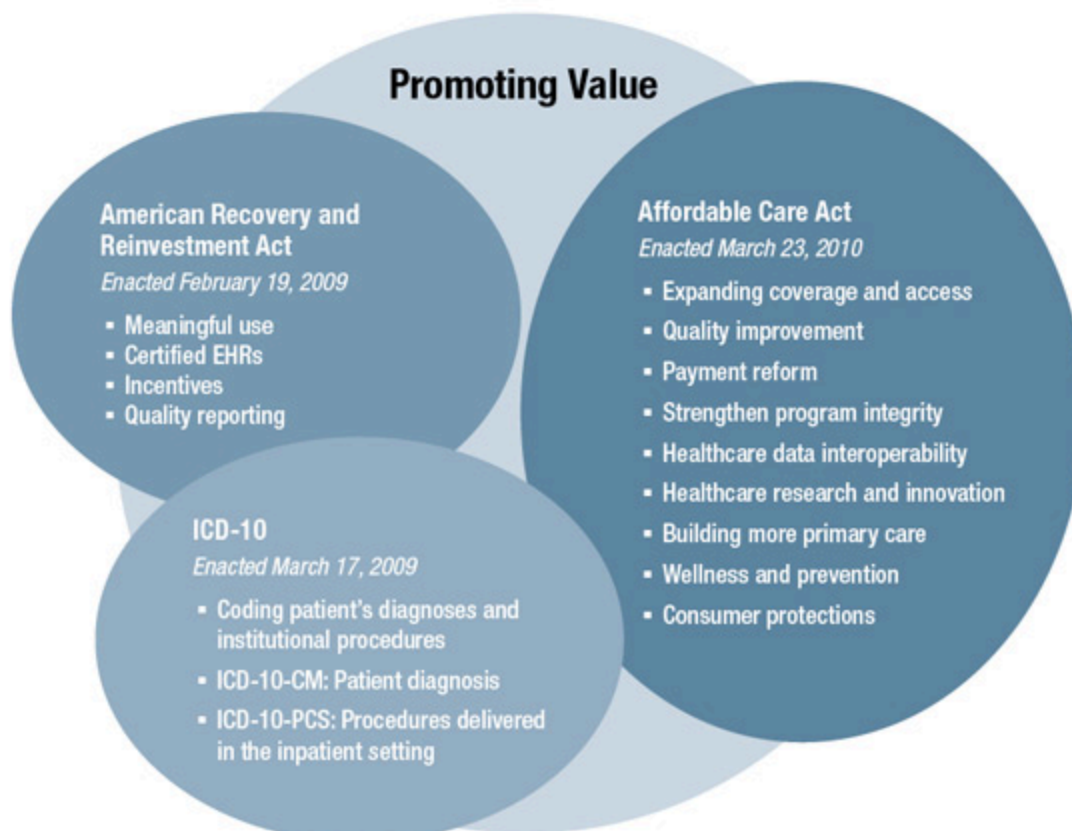
However, although ICD-10, ARRA, and healthcare reform are different federal initiatives, they should not be considered separately, said Karen Trudel, director of the Office of e-Health Standards and Services at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, at AHIMA's 2011 ICD-10 Summit in April.

Work on the initiatives should be integrated where possible in order to maximize efficiency and leverage each initiative, Trudel told attendees, demonstrating the overlaps with the illustration shown here.

OESS is responsible for CMS's comprehensive
e-health strategy, including orchestrating and implementing the administrative simplification provisions of HIPAA transactions and transitioning new ICD code sets.

Though the industry is focused on reaching the ICD-10 implementation deadline, providers and payers should not expect their ICD-10 work to end October 1, 2013. CMS, for one, is already looking ahead.

"ICD-10 is an integral part of everything we will be doing for the next 15 years," Trudel said. "It is never over."

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