

# On the Road to ICD-10-CM/PCS

[Save to myBoK](#)

By Kathleen A. Frawley, JD, MS, RHIA, FAHIMA

October 1, 2014 is only 16 months away as the healthcare industry and HIM professionals prepare to transition to ICD-10-CM/PCS. While many providers, payers, and vendors were gearing up for the original October 2013 date, the one-year delay issued in 2012 gave the industry time to continue planning efforts. However, recent studies have shown that many organizations are lagging behind or have not yet started their plan to transition. There is concern that small hospitals and physician practices may not be ready.

At AHIMA's ICD-10-CM/PCS and Computer-Assisted Coding Summit, which took place in Baltimore, MD in April, there were sessions on early adopters' efforts that provided insight into challenges faced and lessons learned. Organizations that are well on their way have a steering committee to oversee the plan, and many have a project manager dedicated to the transition. The importance of clinical documentation improvement programs was highlighted, as well as the need for dual coding to assess impact on revenue and a strategy to identify additional resources to address the anticipated decrease in coder productivity.

It is time for HIM professionals to step up and provide leadership in their respective organizations-particularly to their physician community. AHIMA is developing more and more educational resources for HIM professionals and providers to assist in education and training. I encourage you to utilize medical staff meetings to begin medical staff education. Academic institutions may want to explore training programs for physician office personnel or develop projects for students to help physician practices with their superbills. There are many resources available on AHIMA's website, including an ICD-10-CM/PCS Leadership Model and an implementation toolkit.

AHIMA is currently working with our alliance partners to assess how we can help physician practices be prepared. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has developed resources for physician practices, small hospitals, and payers on ICD-10. Visit [www.cms.gov/ICD10](http://www.cms.gov/ICD10) to access official CMS resources and to sign up for e-mail updates. CMS has developed checklists, timelines, and implementation guides that provide detailed information about the ICD-10-CM/PCS transition. In September 2012, the Office of E-Health Standards and Services at CMS awarded a contract to National Government Services (NGS) to develop a pilot for end-to-end testing that can be used for all administrative simplification requirements. The pilot is using ICD-10-CM/PCS as a test case. High level documents and detailed checklists have been developed for five identified industry segments: large provider, payer, small provider, vendor-to-payer, and vendor-to-provider.

NGS has been conducting listening sessions for the healthcare industry. Register for these sessions by sending an email to [ngs.compliancetesting@wellpoint.com](mailto:ngs.compliancetesting@wellpoint.com). Each listening session is limited to 90 participants. More information about this pilot project is available on the CMS End-to-End Testing web page, <http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/HIPAA-Administrative-Simplification/Affordable-Care-Act/End-to-End-Testing.html>.

AHIMA is here to help you and the healthcare industry as we continue our journey to ICD-10-CM/PCS. Believe!

Kathleen A. Frawley ([kathleen.frawley@ahima.org](mailto:kathleen.frawley@ahima.org)) is professor and chair of health information technology at DeVry University, based in North Brunswick, NJ.

---

**Article citation:**

Frawley, Kathleen A.. "On the Road to ICD-10-CM/PCS" *Journal of AHIMA* 84, no.6 (June 2013): 10.

---

## Driving the Power of Knowledge

Copyright 2022 by The American Health Information Management Association. All Rights Reserved.