

Things Overheard at the ICD-10 Summit

Save to myBoK

Coming on the heels of an unexpected delay of the implementation of the new code set, this year's ICD-10-CM/PCS and Computer-Assisted Coding (CAC) Summit, held in Washington, DC from April 22–23, was rife with uncertainty and questions—as well as some zingers from federal health officials.

As was expected, the implementation deadline delay was the number one topic, with tips for coping and moving forward becoming a close number two. For those who were unable to attend, the following roundup of the summit's most memorable sound bites should give a sense of the tone and topics shared during the event.

“‘Click fatigue’ leads to ‘click anger’ and ‘click anger’ leads to no clicking. Click fatigue for documentation may drive poor behavior.”

—Tom Ormondroyd, MBA, Precyse, discussing problem lists

“I’ve been on ICD-10 for a third of the years I’ve been at Blue Cross Blue Shield. We’re from Detroit, our view is that ICD-10 is [like] an airbag on a car. They’re important, they’re critical, it really doesn’t matter how much it costs so long as it operates properly.”

—Dennis Winkler, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

“We didn’t ask for this. Our policy is not to delay, it is to kill ICD-10. Congress screwed up again. That legislation had nothing to do with ICD-10. A do-nothing Congress managed in six days to do something we didn’t ask it to do.”

—Dr. Steven Stack, MD, immediate past chair of the American Medical Association board of trustees

“We appreciate AHIMA’s response. Your national organization and leadership has represented you well. You’re the coders; I applaud all of you. I know how difficult it is. We’re continuing to push this forward.”

—Denise Buenning, acting deputy director, Office of eHealth Standards and Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

“I’m speaking to a friendly crowd. I spoke to the American Hospital Association last week and it was hellfire. After the Congressional action, I’m surprised they let me come here. They’re sending me to the wolves. They [his superiors] said ‘Go do your thing’ and I said ‘I’ll stick to my script.’”

—Godwin Odia, PhD, NHA, RHIA, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ ICD-10 implementation lead for Medicaid

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