

Voices from the ICD-10 Zeitgeist

[Save to myBoK](#)

As it starts to appear likely that ICD-10-CM/PCS will finally be implemented this year, prominent advocates for the transition are striking a more optimistic tune in public statements. Overall, the ICD-10 zeitgeist has steadily swung toward an implementation date of October 1, 2015 after years of ICD-10 deadline delays.

We've rounded up some of the best ICD-10 sound bites from Congressional testimony, social media, and interview outtakes from the *Journal* that help demonstrate that hopeful aura now glowing around ICD-10-CM/PCS.

"In the short term, I don't think coders' lives will change much. These months leading up to implementation have already meant a lot of extra work for them, and that will likely continue for the first six months or so. But my hope for the long term is that coders will embrace change as the new 'normal,' and expect to be constantly learning and expanding their horizons." – **Rhonda Butler, CCS, CCS-P, senior clinical research analyst at 3M Health Information Systems, in an interview with the *Journal of AHIMA***

"ICD-10 is not a silver bullet. But on the spectrum of needed systemic changes, it is a comparatively simple one—the technological equivalent of an upgrade from a relatively simple dictionary to a more complex one." –**Kristi Matus, chief financial and administrative officer, Athenahealth, in testimony delivered at the US House of Representatives' Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health hearing titled "Examining ICD-10 Implementation"**

"Regarding physician ICD-10 skeptics who didn't know physicians have requested new codes over the years: They thought it was mostly bureaucrats who came up with this in an office, but they were quite astonished when I talk about laterality and alluded to the fact that orthopedists requested the laterality [in ICD-10]. There's a lot of information out there that they [physicians] aren't privy to." –**Paul Isaacs, MD, CDIP, senior director of health solutions, FTI Consulting, in an interview with the *Journal of AHIMA***

"ICD-10 will help medical researchers because it allows us to be more precise. It will not result in a Nobel Prize, but we can be a little more precise about exactly what happened and help us recognize patterns," –**John Hughes, MD, professor of medicine at Yale School of Medicine, in an interview with the *Journal of AHIMA***

What cost \$6.8 billion dollars last year? Not switching to ICD-10. #ICD10Matters –**Tweet from @AHIMAResources**

Article citation:

Journal of AHIMA Staff. "Voices from the ICD-10 Zeitgeist" *Journal of AHIMA* 86, no.6 (June 2015): 96.

Driving the Power of Knowledge

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