



HEALTH &amp; HUMAN SERVICE INNOVATIONS

*Celebrating 30 Years of Service***CONTACT**

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**Hollywood, FL** – There's a significant change headed toward the health care industry on how it codes for diseases, diagnoses, and procedures. The federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) require all medical providers to comply with the implementation of the new coding framework called ICD-10 (International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems – Version 10) by October 1, 2013. This massive transition from ICD-9 to ICD-10 includes increasing the number of reporting codes more than fivefold, to about 69,000. The differences between ICD-9 and ICD-10 are significant and physicians and practice management staff need to start educating themselves now about this major change so that they will be able to meet the October 1, 2013 compliance deadline.

Many experts predict this expansion could be costly for medical practices, in terms of both time and finances. Implementing ICD-10 will impact most business processes within a physician's practice, including verifying eligibility, obtaining pre-authorization for services, documentation of the patient's visit, research activities, public health reporting, quality reporting, and submitting claims. This is a massive administrative and financial undertaking for physicians, requiring education, software, coder training, and testing with payers.

This public health initiative is a collaboration of the Public Health Program of Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine and Broward Regional Health Planning Council. Broward Regional Health Planning Council has teamed up with CODESMART™ UNIVERSITY to help physicians and their staffs get the proper training they need to successfully make this transition to ICD-10. CODESMART™ UNIVERSITY, in partnership with Florida International University, is the only existing ICD-10 online curriculum that provides training for all three of the following groups: Existing Coders, New Coders and Clinicians in a certification program. CODESMART™ UNIVERSITY ICD-10 training program is designed for medical professionals to learn at their own pace and their own schedule. Broward Regional Health Planning Council will be reaching out to local physician offices and medical office billing agencies to inform them of this effective and versatile training program to prepare them for the ICD-10 transition.

Once implemented, ICD-10 codes will provide more robust data that will help improve patient care by providing more specific and detailed diagnosis information that can aid physicians and other providers in the treatment of patients. It will also enable the exchange of health care data among providers in the U.S. and with the rest of the world who is already using ICD-10.

For more information, please contact Mike De Lucca at 954.561.9681 or visit the website at [www.brhpc.org](http://www.brhpc.org).

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