Hospitals widely report they will be ready to submit claims using the new ICD-10 classification systems for clinical diagnoses and procedures (ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS) by the scheduled implementation date of October 1, 2014, according to a recent survey of 785 hospitals by the American Hospital Association (AHA). Nearly 95 percent of hospitals responded they were moderately to very confident of meeting the deadline, while more than 90 percent of critical access hospitals (CAHs) and hospitals with 100 or fewer patient beds expressed confidence in reporting claims under ICD-10 by October 2014. Hospitals also noted risks to successful implementation, such as the challenges of working with payers and technology vendors, while also addressing competing priorities such as adopting electronic health records (EHRs).

94% of hospitals indicate they are moderately to very confident they will be able to report under ICD-10 by October 2014. On a scale of 1-5, how confident are you that your organization is going to be ready to report the new ICD-10 diagnosis and procedure codes by the compliance date of October 1, 2014?

94% of hospitals are proactively working with physicians to implement ICD-10.

Is your hospital engaging with staff physicians in ICD-10 implementation?

Hospitals Actively Working with Physicians to Implement ICD-10

Many hospitals have been planning and incorporating staff training for ICD-10 over multiple years to prepare for the conversion. These efforts also extend to affiliated physician engagement – 92 percent of hospitals are working with their physicians to implement ICD-10. Instituting the new system is complex and requires collaboration across the hospital – and survey results show that hospitals are taking the lead in championing ICD-10 and preparing clinicians for the transition.

1ICD-10-CM stands for International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Clinical Modification and ICD-10-PCS stands for International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Procedure Coding System.)
Challenges to Implementation

Hospitals are implementing ICD-10 simultaneously with other major initiatives. However, there is the potential that incorporating multiple large institutional changes concurrently may pose implementation challenges for ICD-10. Meeting the requirements of the Meaningful Use program for EHRs was noted by more than half of hospitals as the largest competing priority for ICD-10 implementation.

External factors also pose threats to success; hospitals largely noted that timely testing with payer partners and receiving necessary upgrades from vendors are the challenges that are most likely to affect ICD-10 implementation.

Conclusion

While there are potential risks to successful implementation of ICD-10 that merit policymaker attention, the vast majority of hospitals expect to be ready to transition to ICD-10 by October 1, 2014. Thus, there should be no further delay in moving to ICD-10. Hospitals do, however, need to manage competing priorities and external risks posed by the readiness of payers and technology vendors.