

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-17
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Office of E-Health Standards and Services

FEB 19 2013

Kathleen A. Frawley
President
American Health Information Management Association
233 N. Michigan Avenue, 21st Floor
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Ms. Frawley:

Thank you for your letter to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius in support of the ICD-10 implementation. I have been asked to respond to you on her behalf.

We agree with your recommendation to continue progress towards ICD-10 implementation and maintain our commitment to the October 1, 2014 compliance date. Based on your feedback and other stakeholder input, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) believes that the one-year extension offers physicians adequate time to train their coders, complete system changeovers, and conduct testing. Furthermore, we have found that many private and public sector health plans, hospitals and hospital systems, and large physician practices are far along in their ICD-10 implementation. CMS has taken action to reinforce this message to the industry and have responded to the American Medical Association.

Likewise, we believe that ICD-10 is foundational for health care reform and a cornerstone of several integrated programs that build toward a modernized health care system and work in concert to achieve better care, better health, and lower costs. Integrated programs such as Version 5010, the ICD-10 code-set itself, the Medicare & Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Programs, and the Physician Quality Reporting System are all aimed at accomplishing these outcomes. Together, they move America's health care system towards better coordinated care through greater interoperability and ease of transmitting electronic data; better quality measurement and reporting of clinical outcomes data; and lower costs achieved through operational efficiencies.

As a trusted partner, we thank AHIMA for your work to move the ICD-10 implementation forward and applaud your current efforts to accelerate assistance to physician practices and other healthcare entities at the local level in 2013.

We look forward to continuing our collaboration with you and your members to help industry and small physician practices make a successful transition to ICD-10. Christine Stahlecker, Acting Director of the Administrative Simplification Group in OESS, will reach out to Mr. Dan Rode for future discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert S. Tagalico". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Robert S. Tagalico
Director
Office of E-Health Standards and Services

cc:

Dan Rode, MBA, CHPS, FHFMA, AHIMA