ICD-10: Coming October 1, 2015

Let us help you make a successful transition.

Dear BHS physician and allied health providers,

Per congressional and CMS instructions, very soon ICD-9 will be converting to ICD-10. The current go-live date is October 1, 2015. It is always possible another delay could be interjected, yet it is necessary that we do all we can to be ready. Just like smart phones and computers, video games and cars, life is a journey of changes and upgrades. The medical record is no different. Yes, the diseases are the same, but our way of creating a record reflecting a patient's care is always a work in progress.

ICD which means the International Classification of Diseases is now coming out in version 10 and will create a far more accurate and specific message narrowed down to the simplicity of a 7 character code.

The Baptist Health System is here to assist you in learning this enhanced method of documentation of your patient's condition and care. To accomplish this a number of supportive activities are available for all our clinicians to take advantage of:

• HealthStream web-based on demand training modules for all specialties with CME credits
• Educational seminars centered around routine medical staff meetings
• On site experts: physicians and documentation specialists
• BHS physician web page resources for immediate access to ICD coding guidelines and manuals plus numerous links and documents to assist your successful adoption
• Educational communications like BHS e-mail newsletters highlighting specialty specific optimal documentation
• Pocket card ICD documentation and coding tips for all specialties
• Physician lounge ICD posters with rotating topics

Compliance with using the new code set this October is mandated by federal law. However we are preparing our hospitals and those who work here with tools and skills necessary to navigate the ICD-10 adoption focusing on the benefits that such a system offers namely a more accurate description of what was done to and found in your patient. Please remember all of us are facing this challenge, yet together as team we can be confident of an outcome that we can be proud of, namely excellent clinical care and outcomes with a record reflective thereof.

Sincerely yours,

William H. Bradshaw, M.D.
President of the Medical Staff
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