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Research Highlights Five Studies That Navigate ICD-10-CM/PCS Transition

CHICAGO – January 20, 2012 – The U.S. healthcare industry is in the midst of profound change as it prepares for the transition to ICD-10-CM/PCS by October 1, 2013. The expanded coding system will provide greater specificity and clinical detail and will vastly increase the number of diagnostic codes. However, a thorough understanding of the new guidelines is integral for a successful transition from ICD-9-CM to the ICD-10- CM/PCS coding system.

“It is important to realize that making the transition to ICD-10 requires strategic decision making, a solid foundation, and familiarity with the code sets and guidelines,” said Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, FACHE and Chief Executive Officer of the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). “While AHIMA has been leading the effort to provide education and resources to help organizations make an efficient transition to the ICD-10 classification system, research is essential to highlight the overall navigational process.”

The winter 2012 issue of *Perspectives in Health Information Management* has a special focus on ICD-10 and includes results from five studies in which health information management and health informatics professionals explain their findings after navigating the transition to ICD-10-CM/PCS.

The *Lessons Learned from an ICD-10-CM Clinical Documentation Pilot Study* by Jackie Moczygemba, MBA, RHIA, CCS; and Susan H. Fenton, PhD, RHIA, explains how cross-sectional research was conducted on hundreds of records using ICD-10-CM guidelines and codebooks. The findings of this study indicate that healthcare organizations need to assess clinical documentation and identify gaps.

A second report, *Navigating Regulatory Change: Preliminary Lessons Learned During the Healthcare Provider Transition to ICD-10*, identifies a common set of trends, challenges, and lessons learned surrounding the implementation of the ICD-10-CM/PCS code set. The findings in this study were a joint effort by the Georgetown University Student Consulting Team and Booz Allen Hamilton, who interviewed healthcare providers undergoing the transition to ICD-10.

Preparing for ICD-10-CM/PCS: One Payer's Experience with General Equivalence Mappings (GEMs), by Sydney V. Ross-Davis, MD, examines a corporation's initial planning and design for the transition from ICD-9 to ICD-10 and the development of a bi-directional GEM for sourcing and replacing codes and code lists.

This issue of *Perspectives in Health Information Management* also includes a study conducted by Steven J. Steindel, PhD, FACMI, *A Comparison between a SNOMED CT Problem List and the ICD-10-CM/PCS HIPAA Code Sets*, which discusses findings from a comparison of a CORE Problem List Subset of SNOMED-CT and ICD-10-CM/PCS.

The fifth article, "*The Road to ICD-10-CM/PCS Implementation: Forecasting the Transition for Providers, Payers, and Other Healthcare Organizations*" by Tekla B. Sanders, MBA, MHA; Felicia M. Bowens, MSM; William Pierce, RHIA; Bridgette Stasher-Booker, PhD, CSM; Erica Q. Thompson, MD, CDFS; and Warren A. Jones, MD, FAAFP, is a commentary that examines the benefits, challenges and costs of converting to ICD-10.

[*Perspectives in Health Information Management*](#) is the online quarterly journal of scholarly research from the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Foundation.

About the AHIMA Foundation

Created in 1962, the AHIMA Foundation is a, 501 (c)(3) affiliate of AHIMA. The Foundation provides an infrastructure of knowledge, research and education in the field of HIM. Its role is to envision the future direction and needs of the field—and to respond with research, policy, strategies, and information that keeps HIM on the forefront. In celebrating its 50th year the Foundation will continue to focus its overall vision of "Better Health Information for All."

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About AHIMA

Representing more than 63,000 specially educated Health Information Management professionals in the United States and around the world, the American Health Information Management Association is committed to promoting and advocating for high quality research, best practices and effective standards in health information and to actively contributing to the development and advancement of health information professionals worldwide. AHIMA's enduring goal is quality healthcare through quality information. www.ahima.org

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