

## ***ICD-11* May Be the Next Coding Hurdle**

Editorial Staff

The health care community's on-going "scramble" to prepare for adoption of the *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition (ICD-10)* got a welcome reprieve recently when the Department of Health and Human Services announced a [proposed delay](#) in the compliance deadline until Oct. 1, 2014. Now the American Medical Association has taken the conversation a step further, proposing at its 2012 House of Delegates meeting that *ICD-11* be considered as a possible option to replace *ICD-9*, effectively bypassing *ICD-10* implementation altogether.

According to meeting highlights, the AMA House of Delegates "voted to evaluate *ICD-11* as a possible alternative to replace the *ICD-9* code set. Delegates asked the AMA and other stakeholders, such as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), to examine other options instead of implementing the *ICD-10* code set." As of press time, no further action has been announced, although considering that providers only have approximately 15 months until *ICD-10* compliance takes effect (even with the proposed delay), one assumes any transition away from *ICD-10* implementation and toward adoption of *ICD-11* would need to be finalized relatively soon. Otherwise, once finalized, *ICD-11* would likely be subject to similar challenges / delays as *ICD-10* in terms of implementation / compliance by the health care community.

The World Health Organization, publisher of the *International Classification of Diseases*, is expected to have a final draft of *ICD-11* available for official WHO endorsement by 2015. The beta draft of *ICD-11* is currently available online for commenting at <http://apps.who.int/classifications/icd11/browse/f/en>. According to the WHO, site visitors can browse sections of the proposed content without registering and/or register to participate in the beta phase. Successive drafts of the *ICD-11* are being facilitated utilizing what the WHO describes as a "Wiki-like tool" whereby "users will engage in field trials through the global Web-based platform. This Internet-based knowledge management and sharing process will allow broader participation of multiple stakeholders in the creation and review of the new classification."

Visit [www.who.int/classifications/icd/revision/en](http://www.who.int/classifications/icd/revision/en) for more about *ICD-11*. To learn about the *ICD-10* and current compliance specifics, visit [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov) and search for "ICD-10."

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