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AHIMA Survey: Coding Accuracy Unaffected by ICD-10 Transition

Initial decreases in productivity were less than expected

CHICAGO – June 13, 2016 – A new survey by the [American Health Information Management Association](#) (AHIMA) and the [AHIMA Foundation](#) finds that the transition to ICD-10 on Oct. 1, 2015, has had virtually no effect on coding accuracy (0.65 percent). In addition, the perceived average productivity decline of 14 percent is less than most in the healthcare industry expected.

“This [survey](#) helps to validate all the anecdotal accounts that the transition to ICD-10 has largely been a smooth one,” said AHIMA CEO Lynne Thomas Gordon, MBA, RHIA, CAE, FACHE, FAHIMA. “Health Information Management (HIM) professionals are already coding with the same degree of accuracy as in ICD-9. Of course with any change there will be an initial period of productivity decline, but we fully expect this decrease will be short-term in nature. In fact, respondents indicated in the survey that they have become more comfortable with the new code set with each day and productivity decreases continue to lessen.”

Many survey respondents noted that the implementation of new computer assisted coding (CAC) technology occurred at the same time as the introduction of the ICD-10 code set. This may account for some portion of the productivity decline.

Productivity was affected in all respondent groups, regardless of educational level or experience. HIM professionals who worked in inpatient settings had less of a productivity decline than those who worked in outpatient settings.

AHIMA and the AHIMA Foundation plan to conduct another survey in May 2017 to determine trends in productivity and accuracy.

“The greater specificity in ICD-10 will provide for a more accurate and complete patient story and a more meaningful way to track the outcomes of care,” Thomas Gordon said.

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About AHIMA

The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) represents more than 103,000 health information professionals in the United States and around the world. AHIMA 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

About AHIMA Foundation

Established in 1962, the AHIMA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) philanthropic affiliate of AHIMA. The Foundation envisions the future of healthcare, and we prepare for that future with investments in research, workforce development, education, and innovative strategies that advance the HIM profession and, ultimately, better serve the healthcare community. The Foundation focuses on readying the HIM professionals of today to be the leaders of tomorrow. We operate under the values of philanthropy, innovation, leadership and integrity and strive to be recognized for excellence in health information leadership and research for the healthcare industry and the public. www.ahimafoundation.org