

# MCS Code

An online newsletter from MCS

Fall 2011 vol 3

## Support Your Local HIM Association

As we focus on educating ourselves for ICD-10, it's important to realize what a valuable role our associations play in the world of HIM. Our local and state associations constantly provide us with valuable opportunities to learn and improve our skills and knowledge. Without these organizations to support us by providing these educational opportunities, where would we be? The local and state HIMA meetings also provide us with a way to reconnect to our colleagues and meet new peers.



At MCS, we encourage our staff and coders to take advantage of these opportunities. To that end, Pam Cecile, RHIA, coding manager for MCS, has taken on a large role in the Central New York HIM community and beyond. As president of CNYHIMA, Pam is doing her part to provide the local HIM community with opportunities to learn and grow. She is especially focused on ICD-10 and recently completed the ICD-10 AHIMA training in Albany (see article to the right). Pam certainly is an important contributor to MCS, and I'm proud and more than willing to share her expertise and great attitude with the Central New York coding community.

We encourage all our staff to be involved, volunteer and take part in their local and state HIM associations. We hope that you will see, as I do, the tremendous value in these organizations and do your part to help our community to learn, grow and support each other.

**Paul Arvantes, RHIA**

President

paul.arvantes@mcs coding.com  
800-MCS-8588



## Inside MCS

### Pam Cecile Attends ICD-10-CM/PCS Academy

Pamela Cecile, MCS coding manager and CNYHIMA board president, has completed the two phases of the AHIMA Academy for ICD-10-CM/PCS: Building Expert Trainers in Diagnosis and Procedure Coding. First were the self-paced online courses that are a prerequisite for the three-day, in-person workshop. The two online courses provided Pam with the basic training in ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS code sets. This was conducted on AHIMA's remote, web-based Distance Education Campus site.



Pam then attended the three-day workshop, September 14 – 16, in Albany, NY. During the in-person workshop, the trainers focused on in-class coding exercises while modeling training techniques. The first day of the training focused on ICD-10-CM and days two and three on ICD-10-PCS coding. After her successful completion of both the previous online training and this in-person training, Pam will complete an assessment in order to earn an AHIMA ICD-10-CM/PCS Trainer Certificate. Thereafter, she will also be eligible to join the AHIMA ICD-10 Ambassador Program, which is designed to provide an added level of support to help her effectively perform as an ICD-10 trainer.

### Continuing Education Webinar

MCS started the NYHIMA Anatomy & Physiology refresher series course presented by Marc Maller, MD on September 13. It continues until April 19, 2012.

*continued on pg. 2*

Inside MCS continued

## The HIPAA 5010 and ICD-10-CM/PCS connection

As you may already know, January 2012 is the compliance deadline for covered entities to upgrade their billing systems to HIPAA 5010. This is the first national milestone that sets the stage for ICD-10-CM/PCS conversion. If you are a HIM professional, have you recently checked your organization's progress in meeting the HIPAA 5010 transaction deadline? If not, now is the time to make sure that your organization is on track to meet this important deadline. Organizations that have not upgraded to 5010 standards could be penalized by CMS. In addition, CMS will not be extending payments to providers who are not ready for the HIPAA transaction compliance date. For more information, please consult the AHIMA's ICD-10 website, [www.ahima.org/icd10](http://www.ahima.org/icd10) and [www.GetReady5010.com](http://www.GetReady5010.com)

(Reference: Journal of AHIMA Growing ICD-10 Transition program Take Root. June 2011 page 18 Aligning ICD-10 by Dan Rode, MBA, CHPS, FHFMA.)



## ICD-10

### The ICD-10 transition

After reading an AHIMA article on Growing ICD-10, it became very clear that everyone needs to plan, measure and track the status of the many departments that will be affected by ICD-10. Here are some highlights from an AHIMA journal article that may be helpful as you transition to ICD-10. St. Mary's Health System located in Lewiston, ME had the right idea when it came to tracking a project. They had a consultant create a readiness tracking tool. This tool uses periodic surveys to measure each department's progress toward ICD-10 implementation. It compares them in a larger graph, which shows the milestones needed to reach to fully implement ICD-10 by the October 1, 2013 deadline. Another planning method that was useful for them involved educating the higher levels of the organization and clinicians on ICD-10 and how it will affect them. They also have been focusing on improving documentation and coding as a way to improve core measures, compliance and its supporting documentation.

Christina Care Health System in Delaware launched its ICD-10



program in 2009 because they knew it would affect their MC-DRGs, reimbursement, outcomes in terms of their score card and how they would look to the rest of the country. They also created an ICD-10 steering committee that included 13 clinicians out of 19 members. Peggy Lynahan, Christiana's ICD-10 program manager said this was done because they felt that physicians responded best to the ICD-10 transition if the spin was not on the codes themselves but on the code sets' ability to provide better care through better documentation.

At Banner Health they had their HIM department, IT departments and project management office launch ICD-10 initiatives in 2009, developing a comprehensive implementation plan

that could be used organization wide. This early planning has put Banner on track to complete phase one of AHIMA's ICD-10 Preparation and Planning Checklist by the recommended deadline of July 2011, according to Jaime James, MHA, RHIA. They also developed an ICD-10 impact assessment reaching across 14 business units that reviewed application, interfaces, and report extract for ICD codes or data derived from the codes.

Chris Dimick from AHIMA states that St. Mary's, Christiana and Banner owe their progress to an early start, and concise and collaborative organization planning. A similar outlook has motivated each organization. According to Betsey Shew, JD, CPHQ, director of performance improvement at St. Mary's, the transition to ICD-10 is more than regulatory requirement. "This is going to have a wide-reaching impact; everything from making operations to finance to quality decisions.

(Reference: Journal of AHIMA June 2011, pages 23-26 Chris Dimick AHIMA staff writer.)