

As you are probably aware, MHDC has been working to revamp the ICD-10 Forum so that it is better aligned with the needs of Massachusetts healthcare stakeholders. After listening to members of the Forum and considering how best to meet those needs, we are pleased to report several enhancements we will be making.

Most importantly, Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC) will be increasing its involvement in the Forum, which is good news both because CSC has deep expertise in these matters, and also because this will allow the ICD-10 Forum to be better coordinated with the 5010 and ICD-10 work CSC is doing with the members of NEHEN, many of whom are also members of the Forum.

In considering how to make the Forum as relevant and useful as possible, we realized that the Forum has attracted people that come at ICD-10 issues from slightly different directions. As a result, we are proposing to establish four workgroups within the ICD-10 Forum so that we can better address specific interests, without subjecting people to presentations and discussions that are not relevant to them.

The four workgroups (described more fully below) are: IT, coding, operations, and revenue cycle. Each workgroup will develop its own "roadmap" of issues and activities that it will address, and MHDC will host and provide support (with CSC) for the meetings of each workgroup. MHDC will arrange for legal review of each workgroup's roadmap to ensure that everything is consistent with anti-trust laws. Subject to input from the members, the expectation is that workgroups will meet monthly for the remainder of 2011, and then assess whether more frequent meetings are necessary in 2012.

In addition to the workgroups, every other month there will be a meeting of the combined ICD-10 Forum to share information and insights across the workgroups, and to hear from speakers of more general interest (from CMS, for example). The schedule of meetings for the full ICD-10 workgroup is shown below the workgroup descriptions.

At next week's meeting we will provide an opportunity to people to indicate which workgroup they would like to join. People with interest in more than one aspect of ICD-10 are welcome to participate in as many workgroups as are relevant to them. If you are not able to attend next week's meeting but would like to be included in a workgroup, please let us know and we will take care of it.

I hope you will find these changes make the ICD-10 Forum a more valuable resource for you. If you have any questions or comments, please contribute them at next week's meeting or let me know by phone or e-mail.

Thanks.

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### **ICD-10 Forum Workgroups**

IT - designed for IT professionals whose responsibilities include making the necessary upgrades to an entity's information systems to insure proper use and acceptance of ICD-10 codes, both internally and with external business partners.

Coding - designed for those whose responsibilities are to establish which ICD-10 codes are used in claims and to develop a GEM for their entity.

Operations - designed for those whose responsibility is to make sure that the intersections of the ICD-10 codes with other processes go smoothly; also, to examine and document necessary workflow modifications to meet that end.

Revenue Cycle - designed for financial professionals whose responsibility it is to make sure that the introductions of ICD-10 does not adversely affect the normal financial cycle, i.e. that claims are submitted and collected in a timely fashion.