Preparing for the ICD-10-CM Deadline in 2015

Clinical social workers should begin preparing for the implementation of the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Edition, Clinical Modification, known as the ICD-10-CM. It is a diagnostic classification system used to identify diseases. Developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for use in all United States health care settings, it is maintained and distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

**Background Information**

In 2003, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA, P.L. 104-191) standardized uniform electronic code sets and identified the ICD-9-CM or its updated counterpart, as the diagnostic code set to use when seeking reimbursement for health and mental health services performed. The ICD-9-CM is over 30 years old and does not accurately describe diagnoses of the 21st century. Therefore, it will be replaced by the ICD-10-CM on October 1, 2015.

**ICD-10 Basics**

There are two components of the ICD-10:
- The ICD-10-CM is used to code a diagnosis when seeking reimbursement and is used in all health care settings. Under the ICD-10-CM, 3 to 7 digits are used for coding rather than the 3 to 5 digits used with the ICD-9-CM.
- The ICD-10-PCS (Procedure Coding System) is used in inpatient settings and is used with the ICD-9-PCS.

For purposes of psychotherapy services, clinical social workers use the ICD-10-CM codes only. Effective October 1, 2015, clinical social workers who seek reimbursement will be required to use the ICD-10-CM. The change from the ICD-9-CM to the ICD-10-CM will not impact Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) coding used by clinical social workers and other healthcare providers.

**Implementation**

Once implementation becomes effective on October 1, 2015, clinical social workers who continue to use the ICD-9-CM codes will receive claim denials. Because clinical social workers and other health care providers have been given adequate preparation time to transition to the ICD-10-CM, opportunities to resubmit or appeal denied claims may not exist for inappropriate diagnostic coding services performed on or after October 1, 2015. Psychotherapy services rendered prior to October 1, 2015 may continue to be processed with ICD-9-CM codes after October 1, 2015.
Transitioning to the ICD-10-CM

Because conversion from the ICD-9-CM to the ICD-10-CM will require significant changes in clinical and administrative systems, clinical social workers should prepare now for the transition. Preparation may include:

- Being aware that the codes of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th Edition (DSM-5) are now harmonized with the ICD-10-CM codes
- Purchasing and using the revised CMS-1500 Form (02-12) for claim submissions
- Training to become familiar with the new diagnostic codes
- Determining how the ICD-10-CM will affect your practice
- Mapping the ICD-9-CM codes to the ICD-10-CM codes
- Becoming familiar with the implementation plans of insurance companies with whom you are a provider
- Discussing and verifying with your billing services, practice management associate, or clearinghouse, their preparation and readiness for the implementation of the ICD-10. Clinical social workers are responsible for ensuring their claims are filed with the appropriate codes, even though this responsibility may have been delegated by them to a third-party.
- Verifying with your software vendor that your computer system can accommodate the ICD-10 diagnostic codes
- Upgrading or purchasing new practice management and electronic record system to accommodate the data format of the ICD-10-CM
- Developing new forms such as the patient encounter form or super bill, if you submit claims by paper
- Developing and implementing a testing plan for the ICD-10 prior to the compliance date of October 1, 2015.
- Establishing an emergency fund to cover reimbursement delays and unexpected expenses that may arise during the early months of implementation.

Where to Find the ICD-10-CM Codes

Additional information and a copy of the ICD-10-CM codes are available free online at www.cms.gov/ICD10. Clinical social workers may also sign up for email updates at this Web site to receive the latest news and resources on the ICD-10.
Preparing for the ICD-10-CM Deadline in 2014

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Background Information

In 2003, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA, P.L. 104-191) standardized uniform electronic code sets and identified the ICD-9-CM or its updated counterpart, as the diagnostic code set to use when seeking reimbursement for health and mental health services performed. The ICD-9-CM is over 30 years old and does not exist for inappropriate diagnostic coding services performed on or after October 1, 2014. Psychotherapy services rendered prior to October 1, 2014 will not impact Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) coding used by clinical social workers and other health care providers.

Implementation

Once implementation becomes effective on October 1, 2014, clinical social workers who continue to use the ICD-9-CM codes will receive claim denials. Because clinical social workers and other health care providers have been given adequate preparation time to transition to the ICD-10-CM, opportunities to resubmit or appeal denied claims may not exist for inappropriate diagnostic coding services performed on or after October 1, 2014. Psychotherapy services rendered prior to October 1, 2014 will continue to be processed with ICD-9-CM codes after October 1, 2014.

ICD-10 Basics

There are two components of the ICD-10:

- The ICD-10-CM is used to code a diagnosis when seeking reimbursement and is used in all health care settings. Under the ICD-10-CM, 3 to 7 digits are used for coding rather than the 3 to 5 digits used with the ICD-9-CM.
- The ICD-10-PCS (Procedure Coding System) is used in inpatient settings. ICD-10-PCS uses 7 alphanumeric digits instead of the 3 or 4 numeric digits used with the ICD-9-PCS.

For purposes of psychotherapy services, clinical social workers use the ICD-10-CM codes only. Effective October 1, 2014, clinical social workers, who seek reimbursement will be required to use the ICD-10-CM. The change from the ICD-9-CM to the ICD-10-CM will not impact Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) coding used by clinical social workers and other healthcare providers.

Mirean Coleman, LICSW, CT
Senior Practice Associate
Mcoleman@naswdc.org