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THIS WEEK'S TOP INDUSTRY & AHIMA NEWS

PROPOSED SPENDING BILL DOES NOT INCLUDE ICD-10

On Tuesday night, after over two uncertain weeks in which select physician groups, including the Texas branch of the American Medical Association (TMA), pushed lawmakers to include a two-year delay of ICD-10-CM/PCS implementation in a federal spending bill to be passed before the end of this year, the [bill](#) was introduced before Congress without language to delay ICD-10. The spending bill must be signed into law by Congress to avoid a government shutdown.

The bill, dubbed a "cromnibus" (part continuing resolution, part omnibus) and officially titled "HR 83 – Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015," next has to pass the House of Representatives and the Senate without amendment. The House is slated to consider this legislation later today. AHIMA is encouraging members to continue to advocate for ICD-10 implementation and contact Congress to ensure that amendments are not added to this funding bill.

The Coalition for ICD-10 has cautioned supporters of the October 1, 2015 implementation date to remain vigilant in case language delaying ICD-10 is slipped into the bill as an amendment. In keeping with that message, an [#ICD10Matters Twitter Rally](#) yesterday focused on getting the "no delay" message to legislators resulted in approximately 5,000 tweets in one hour.

On Wednesday afternoon, chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) and Chairman Pete Sessions (R-TX), to whom the TMA specifically appealed to add legislation delaying ICD-10 to the current "lame duck" Congress, released this [statement on ICD-10](#) through the Energy & Commerce Committee, chaired by Upton: "As we look ahead to the implementation date of ICD-10 on October 1, 2015, we will continue our close communication with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to ensure that the deadline can successfully be met by stakeholders." In the 114th Congress, Upton and Sessions will be asking key stakeholders for information about ICD-10 readiness, including both supporters and opponents of the code sets.

[Read more at the Journal of AHIMA website.](#)

WHAT DO OPPONENTS HAVE AGAINST ICD-10?

Among some physicians who oppose ICD-10, "misinformation and scare tactics" such as "ICD-10 is too expensive, too difficult to learn, and too complex to implement" may have been "repeated so often people began to believe them," AHIMA official Sue Bowman, MJ, RHIA, CCS, FAHIMA, senior director of coding policy and compliance, and public policy & government relations, said this week. A Q&A with Bowman on the website *HITECH*



Continue your advocacy for the October 1, 2015, ICD-10 implementation deadline. Contact your Congressional leaders. Find [contact information and talking points](#) in the *Special E-Alert* sent earlier this week.

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Answers, outlines the negative impacts that would be associated with any further delay of ICD-10.

[Read the Q&A.](#)

ICD-10 'MORE BASICS' VIDEO RELEASED BY CMS

A new video from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), "Coding for ICD-10-CM: More of the Basics," outlines the characteristics and unique features of ICD-10-CM, as well as similarities and differences between ICD-9-CM and ICD-10-CM. The discussion covers 7th character, placeholder "x," excludes notes, unspecified codes, external cause codes, and more. The video is hosted by Sue Bowman, MJ, RHIA, CCS, FAHIMA, AHIMA's senior director of coding policy and compliance, and Nelly Leon-Chisen, RHIA, director of coding and classification at the American Hospital Association.

[Watch the video.](#) New videos and the latest Medicare program information are announced to subscribers to the weekly [MLN Connects Provider eNews](#).

ONC RELEASES DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2015-2020

This week the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) released a draft of the federal government's five-year strategic plan for health IT, which includes five main goals. The agency plans to achieve five goals for the collection, sharing, and use of information. Two of the goals aim to "increase the collection and sharing of health information while protecting individual privacy" and three that focus on creating "an environment where interoperable information is used by healthcare providers, public health entities, researchers, and individuals to improve health, healthcare, and reduce costs."

[Access the Federal Health IT Strategic Plan 2015-2020.](#) Comments will be accepted through February 6.

REPORT: HOW TO SHIFT FOCUS TO HEALTH, INSTEAD OF CARE

How do we focus on individuals' health "in the arenas where we live, learn, work and play," rather than health care, in order to get a complete health picture? A new report, "Data for Individual Health," by consulting group JASON explores how to integrate personal health data from consumer health devices, patient collaborative networks, social media, and environmental, demographic, and genomic data. On the HealthIT Buzz Blog, Karen B. DeSalvo, MD, MPH, MSc, national coordinator for health information technology/acting assistant secretary for health, writes the report comes at a "pivotal time," as ONC works on developing the federal health IT strategic plan and a nationwide interoperability roadmap.

[Read the report](#) or [DeSalvo's comments](#) on the report.

AGING ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Prompted by meaningful use requirements that patients be able to interact with their health information online, a recent study of Americans over age 65 published in the *Journal of General Internal Medicine* finds that health literacy has a significant impact on older patients' Internet use for medical information. Researchers say health literacy turns out to be more significant than cognitive function. [Read the full study.](#)



AHIMA's senior director for standards, Anna Orlova, PhD, has been elected to serve as the International Organization of Standardization's Technical Committee 215 Health Informatics (ISO/TC215) liaison officer to the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** starting in 2015. (AHIMA Director of HIM Practice Excellence Lisa Spellman, MBA, CPHIMS, ISO/TC215 secretary, will serve as alternate.) The ITU is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies. The agency's goal is a "robust, reliable, seamless, global communications system."

[Learn more about ITU.](#)



Visit AHIMA's [Engage Online Communities](#) for discussions and content on topics important to HIM professionals. Have a membership-related question? Visit the [AHIMA Membership and Business](#) community.

And don't forget Engage has a mobile app. Download it from [iTunes](#) or the [Google Play](#) store or scan the QR code below.

A British study published this month in the *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* finds that maintaining health literacy in older adults seems to be correlated with engagement in social activities, especially cultural activities such as going to movies, live theater, and museums. [Read the full study.](#)



GET INVOLVED

PARTICIPATE IN AHIMA'S NEW IG WORK GROUP



A new work group is being convened to identify, develop, and refine tools and resources that will assist organizations in their information governance (IG) implementation. If you or your organization has developed new or innovative IG approaches and tools (examples include, but are not limited to, governance structures, role descriptions, data quality management

approaches, information valuation approaches, preservation resources, legal hold approaches, retention tools, and disposition approaches), this is your opportunity to help forge a path to the future. The work group's goal is to develop an evolving toolkit for IG in healthcare. The group will meet twice monthly beginning mid-January.

E-mail your resume to Lydia.Washington@ahima.org by **December 19**. If you would like to contribute to toolkit content, but are unavailable to participate in the work group, e-mail your interest to the same address.

SHARE YOUR EXPERTISE – CALLS FOR SPEAKERS

AHIMA invites you to submit a proposal to speak at our 2015 events. Calls for speakers are now open for the following meetings:



[AHIMA's 87th Convention and Exhibit](#)

September 26–30, 2015, in New Orleans, LA
Proposals due this Monday, December 15

[Clinical Coding Meeting](#)

September 26-27, 2015, New Orleans, LA

Proposals due this Monday, December 15

[Long-Term and Post-Acute Care Health IT Summit](#)

June 21–23, 2015, Baltimore, MD

Proposals due January 23

[Assembly on Education Symposium and Faculty Development Institute](#)

July 18–22, 2015, Austin, TX

Proposals due January 23

EVENTS ON THE 'ROAD TO 10'

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is offering [free live, regional events](#) to help physicians, clinicians, healthcare professionals, office managers, billing managers, and coders—particularly those working in smaller offices and rural areas—plan and prepare for the October 2015 transition to ICD-10.

AHIMA supports these events and invites you to [view the schedule for your part of the country](#) and share it with the small physician groups in your area. *Note: AHIMA-certified professionals who attend are eligible to self-report attendance for one CEU.*

FINDING THE CONTENT YOU NEED IS A SNAP WITH OUR NEW APP!

Download the FREE AHIMA Products & Catalog App!



[Data Summit: Beyond ICD-10](#)

July 13–14, 2015, Baltimore, MD

Proposals due February 2

NEW JOBS ON CAREER ASSIST: JOB BANK

[Inpatient Coding Quality Review and Education Consultant](#)

National assignments combined with remote

[Supervisor of Clinical Documentation](#)

Southern FL

[Manager, Inpatient Coding](#)
WA

[Director Provider Coding and Credentialing](#)

Oklahoma City, OK

[MANAGER, PATIENT ACCESS](#)

Pacific Northwest

View [more](#) available positions.

VOLUNTEER FOR AN AHIMA ELECTED POSITION IN 2016



It's official. AHIMA is on the hunt for the next great volunteers to serve in 2016. Opportunities for [elected positions](#) include AHIMA Board of Directors, CCHIIM Commissioners, and Speaker-elect of the House of Delegates. Applications are due **March 31**. Before you apply, assess your leadership skills and abilities with the [Volunteer Leadership Competencies Self-Assessment](#) tool.

EDUCATION & NETWORKING

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS



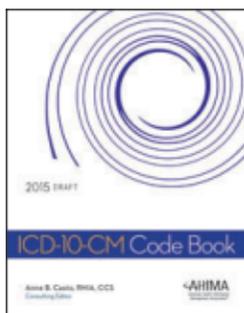
AHIMA's **Coder Academy for ICD-10-CM/PCS** is a dynamic program for coder training in both ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS. Coding professionals who seek to achieve proficiency in these two systems enjoy a program that provides a well-rounded base of knowledge and exposure to advanced cases in ICD-10-CM/PCS.

Register now:

[March 30–April 1, 2015](#)
[Las Vegas, NV](#)

AHIMA's **Advanced ICD-10-PCS Skills Workshops** are designed for those who already have ICD-10-PCS coding experience, providing three days of in-depth, hands-on training in the ICD-10-PCS coding system and its application.

NEW FROM AHIMA PRESS



[ICD-10-CM Code Book, 2015 Draft](#)

Available for pre-order

Anne B. Casto, RHIA, CCS, consulting editor

PRICE: \$110

MEMBER PRICE: \$89.95

PRODUCT NUMBER: AC221014

ISBN: 9781584264408

[ICD-10-PCS Code Book, 2015 Draft](#)

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AHIMA MEMBER
REFERRAL PROGRAM

Register for these upcoming dates:

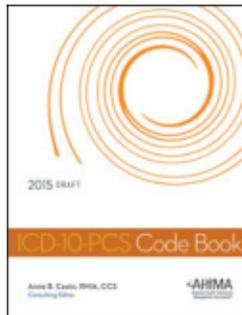
[January 14-16](#)
[El Segundo, CA](#)

[January 28-30](#)
[Houston, TX](#)

[February 11-13](#)
[Atlanta, GA](#)

[March 4-6](#)
[Morrisville, NC](#)

Visit our [EVENTS CALENDAR](#) for more upcoming events.



Available for pre-order

Anne B. Casto, RHIA, CCS, consulting editor

PRICE: \$110
MEMBER PRICE: \$89.95
PRODUCT NUMBER: AC222014
ISBN: 9781584264392



[Strategies for Electronic Document and Health Record Management](#)

By Darice Grzybowski, MA, RHIA, FAHIMA

PRICE: \$79.95
MEMBER PRICE: \$64.95
PRODUCT NUMBER: AB113013
ISBN: 9781584261995

[AHIMA 233 N. MICHIGAN AVE., 21ST FL., CHICAGO, IL 60601](#)

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