CMS TO DELAY MU HARDSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced on Tuesday it intends to reopen the meaningful use (MU) program's hardship exemption application period. The new hardship exemption deadline will be November 30, 2014. Last month, CMS said over 44,000 providers had filed for hardship exemptions, many having had problems with their 2014 Certified Electronic Health Record Technology (CEHRT).

The extension applies if both of these criteria are met:

- Eligible professionals and hospitals have been unable to fully implement 2014 Edition CEHRT due to delays in the technology's availability; and
- Eligible professionals were unable to attest by October 1, or eligible hospitals were unable to attest by July 1 using the flexibility options provided in the CMS 2014 CEHRT Flexibility Rule issued in September.

Read the guidance.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS GROWING DEMAND FOR CODERS

AHIMA Foundation chair elect Torrey Barnhouse spoke with CNBC for its series "Where the Jobs Are." The report outlines the growing need for coders with the October 2015 switch to the ICD-10 code set. Barnhouse says that the typical 20 to 30 percent shortage of coders is expected to grow to 50 percent because of ICD-10. Employers interviewed describe training programs for new coders and the availability of retention bonuses for current staff in light of the switch to ICD-10. The report notes the need for analytical skills and a commitment to lifelong learning for coders to be successful in their careers.

Read the report.

2015 ICD-10-CM GUIDELINES POSTED

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has posted the 2015 ICD-10-CM guidelines. Changes include new examples for sequela, sepsis, and encounter for fractures; allowance for more than one place of occurrence code under certain circumstances; and deletion of the previous guideline for
symptom followed by comparative diagnoses. Access the files at the CMS website.

IG SHOWS 'THE WAY FORWARD' IN THE OCTOBER JOURNAL

The October Journal of AHIMA looks at AHIMA's newly developed and released Information Governance Principles for Healthcare (IGPHC), described as "a group of fundamental norms, values, and rules used to comprehensively govern an organization’s information management strategy, whatever it may be, from cradle to grave." The framework outlines eight principles for IG in healthcare: accountability, transparency, integrity, protection, compliance, availability, retention, and disposition. Healthcare information professionals can use the IGPHC for "IG program development, benchmarking, compliance initiatives, and auditing" and it "can be applied repeatedly and in similar circumstances, allowing the information professional to practice consistently and confidently."

Read the full Journal article and download the Information Governance Principles for Healthcare at ahima.org.

FOUNDATION'S ACADEMIC DIRECTOR TO JOIN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR APPRENTICESHIP COMMITTEE

Desla Mancilla, DHA, RHIA, the AHIMA Foundation's senior director of academic affairs, has been invited to serve as an employer representative to the US Secretary of Labor's Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship (ACA). The Department of Labor's Registered Apprenticeship program works with businesses, employers, and industry associations, as well as education and community organizations, to connect job seekers with employers looking for qualified workers. The advisory committee provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary in its efforts to support the program and increase apprenticeships. Last year, the Department of Labor certified AHIMA's national guidelines for apprenticeship standards for roles for HIM professionals. Learn more about AHIMA's Registered HIM Apprenticeship Program.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: AHIMA VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR DECEMBER 4

Looking for a challenging, in-demand job in HIM? AHIMA's Career Assist Virtual Career Fair will be held online December 4, 1-4 p.m. ET. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet with large, small, regional, and national employers during this online event. It’s a great way to engage directly with employers about their current and future HIM career opportunities. Learn how the event works and register for free.

GET INVOLVED

THANK YOU, YOUR GIFT MATTERS

The AHIMA Foundation recognizes CSA, individual and corporate partners for their donation of a total of 89 items to the 2014 Silent Auction, helping to raise over $19,000 to support the Foundation’s Student Merit Scholarship program. Funds collected from the auction will be used to award scholarships.

OCTOBER ADVANTAGE AVAILABLE

Read the latest online issue of AHIMA's member newsletter, AHIMA Advantage. Learn more about how AHIMA is promoting ICD-10 implementation; get an update on AHIMA’s mobile apps; and find out more about the activities of the Student Advisory Council.

Don't forget, Advantage is also available as a mobile app for Apple, and Android devices.

NEW 2015 AHIMA NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The results are in from the House of Delegates' August vote for three new AHIMA Nominating
Submit Your Abstract for Next Year’s Annual Convention

Submissions are due December 1 for AHIMA’s 87th Convention & Exhibit, September 26–30, 2015, in New Orleans, LA, including the Clinical Coding Meeting, educational tracks and panels, pre-convention tutorials, or poster showcase. Learn more and submit your abstract.

Learn How to Use Social Media for Advocacy

Learn how to use social media as an advocacy tool with both the public and the press. Register for the free webinar Using Social Media for Advocacy, October 15 at noon ET, presented by AHIMA’s Policy and Government Relations office in Washington, DC.

Apply for an AHIMA Designated Position with CAHIIM

The Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM) seeks applications for an AHIMA designated director and three AHIMA designated positions on the CAHIIM HIM Accreditation Council. Three-year terms begin in January 2015. Learn more and apply through the Engage Volunteer Center by October 15.

Congratulations, New Fellows

The AHIMA Fellowship Review Committee recently awarded AHIMA Fellowship to Maria Caban Alizondo, MAOL, RHIT, FAHIMA; Theresa D. Jones, MHA, RHIA, HC, FAHIMA; and James R. Lantis, Jr., MHA, MS, RHIA, FAHIMA. Don't miss out, the last fellowship application for 2014 is December 5. Learn more and apply.

The Medicare Learning Network (MLN) is the official source of information from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Issues such as activities related to Medicare enrollment, coverage, reimbursement, or billing requirements are addressed in MLN Matters articles and the CMS Catalog of Products, which includes Web-based training courses, fact sheets, publications, quick reference charts, videos and podcasts.

AHIMA members, you are eligible receive a one-year
EDUCATION & NETWORKING

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

AHIMA Academy for ICD-10-CM/PCS

November 17-19
Chicago, IL

December 1-3
Las Vegas, NV

December 2-4
Orlando, FL

AHIMA Academy for ICD-10-CM Only

November 17-18
Chicago, IL

Certified in Healthcare Privacy and Security (CHPS) Exam Prep Workshop

December 1-3
Las Vegas, NV

WEBINARS

Webinars start at 1 p.m. ET and last 60 minutes.

October 21
What's New in Health Informatics and How It Might Affect You

October 23
How to Avoid Greatly Increased Liability in the Business Associate Relationship

FROM AHIMA PRESS

Healthcare Code Sets, Clinical Terminologies, and Classification Systems, Third Edition
Available for pre-order

By Kathy Giannangelo, MA, RHIA, CCS, CPHIMS, FAHIMA

This book includes ICD-9-CM, ICD-10-CM/PCS, CPT, HCPCS, CDT, SNOMED CT, LOINC, and DSM-5, and even a chapter on ICD-11, providing students and practitioners in health information...
management and informatics with an overview of each system.

PRICE: $89.95  
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OCTOBER BOOK OF THE MONTH

HIT or MISS: Lessons Learned from Health Information Technology Implementations, Second Edition

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MEMBER PRICE: $49.95  
PRODUCT NUMBER: AB102213

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