



Remaining Complaint with Health IT Today

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Health care in the United States continues to rapidly evolve with many recent changes including initiatives such as stage 2 of meaningful use, health information exchange, quality initiatives, ICD-10 transformation, Affordable Care Act, and consumer-driven health care. To stay ahead of these changes, health care providers and hospitals must have trusted resources available to offer current and future insight that supports quality health care and maintains compliance. Across the country, many providers and hospitals rely on regional extension centers as their resource to provide them with education and assistance relating to these changes.

The West Texas Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center (WTxHITREC) is committed to acting as the trusted advisor for West Texas and supporting these ongoing efforts of health care providers and hospitals to ultimately provide better, safer quality of care. Currently, the WTxHITREC has determined that the transition to ICD-10, preparation for electronic health record (EHR) incentive payment audits, and avoiding upcoming Medicare penalties have taken “center stage” in health care leaders’ purview of concern:

ICD-10 Transition

- As of October 1, 2014, all health care providers, practices and hospitals will need to begin using the ICD-10 coding system for patient diagnosis within their facilities.
- The current ICD-9 code set includes approximately 13,000 primarily numeric diagnosis codes and the change to the ICD-10 code set will include approximately 68,000 alphanumeric diagnosis codes.
- These changes will require significant workflow adjustments within all facets of health care today. With these substantial changes rapidly approaching, all health care providers and hospitals are urged to create an ICD-10 Project Team and assign roles accordingly.
- Strategic planning and project support are crucial to thoroughly evaluating and ensuring proper updates are made to comply with the conversion to ICD-10; the WTxHITREC remains available to assist with this transition.

EHR Incentive Program Audits

- EHR incentive program audits have become a very prominent occurrence for those who attest to an incentive payment.
- Health care providers and hospitals may receive either a pre-

payment or post-payment audit and should be adequately prepared to report based on their meaningful use attestation.

- To this point, approximately 30% of WTxHITREC enrolled hospitals and close to 6% of enrolled health care providers have received an audit notification.
- Overall, WTxHITREC clients have been well-prepared for these audits due to advisement on best practices for documentation, completion of a meaningful use gap analysis prior to attestation, and support to complete the required Privacy & Security Risk Analysis; the WTxHITREC remains available to provide audit support to all providers and/or hospitals.

Medicare Penalties Approaching

- Medicare eligible professionals (EP) who do not meet the requirements for meaningful use by 2015 and in each subsequent year are subject to adjustments to Medicare reimbursements that start at 1% per year, up to a maximum 5% annual adjustment.
- EPs must continue to demonstrate meaningful use every year to avoid payment adjustments in subsequent years.
- EPs must demonstrate meaningful use in 2014 for a 90-day reporting period to avoid payment adjustments in 2015. Currently, this reporting period must occur in the first 9 months of calendar year 2014, and EPs must attest to meaningful use no later than October 1, 2014, in order to avoid the payment adjustments.
- Information was gathered from cms.gov, for more information please view the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services website or contact your WTxHITREC.

WTxHITREC technical assistance services are available to all health care providers, including Medicaid Physician Specialists (MPS), and hospitals in the 108 counties of West Texas. The WTxHITREC offers the MPS program at **NO-COST** to all eligible physicians through funding provided by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

For more information on WTxHITREC services, the MPS program, and other initiatives, call (806) 743-7960, email info@wtx-hitrec.org or visit www.wtxhitrec.org.

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