

Use
EHR as a
POWERFUL
TOOL
in ICD-10

The conversion to the new coding set will demand incredible effort from the medical community and, if not proactively addressed, could cause major disruptions for health organizations.

To complicate matters, the conversion comes at a time of other significant changes including the implementation of EHR (electronic health records). Although EHR and ICD-10 may seem like separate issues, adopting the right EHR system will help you prepare for the.

AdvancedMD EHR and integrated billing are powerful tools in ICD-10. With over 60 years of experience, AdvancedMD is a trusted company with the knowledge and resources to give your practice the advantage in ICD-10 and EHR implementation.

Getting ready for ICD-10

The conversion to ICD-10 has caused uneasiness in the health care community. The coding changes come at a time when healthcare providers are already grappling with other reforms, including the implementation of electronic health records (EHR). Recent regulations to ICD-10 and EHR are intended to streamline information sharing and create a more efficient national healthcare system. However, the changes can seem overwhelming for a busy private practice.

Although ICD-10 and EHRs may seem like separate issues, carefully designing a plan that address both your needs will save you time, money and energy. Selecting the right EHR system can aid in your use of ICD-10.

Today's EHR systems are more powerful than ever. They have been designed to reflect regulatory changes to record-keeping, documentation, and

coding. But not all systems are created equal – choosing an EHR system may be one of the biggest decisions you make for your practice's financial health. EHR software should reduce the disruptions of ICD-10, not compound them.



Five things you should consider when selecting an EHR system

#1 Invest in an EHR system that will be fully utilized by staff

Your EHR system is no good if your staff doesn't want to use it. Be sure that your EHR system is an enhancement to your practice operations, not a hassle. Taking the time to explore the features of systems now will save you time, energy, and hassle. When you are selecting an EHR system, be sure that it will meet the specific needs of your practice. In order to reach Meaningful Use (MU) requirements and facilitate ICD-10, your EHR system must be accessible to both clinical and administrative staff. If the software is difficult to use, your staff will be unlikely to use it.

An EHR system should meet the following standards:

- Simple chart note creation
- Minimal steps to access information
- Easy-to-learn and easy-to-use interface
- Intuitive workflow
- Interoperability with internal and external systems

#2 Choose an EHR designed to reduce ICD-10 coding challenges

With nearly nine times as many codes as ICD-9, ICD-10 aims to record a higher level of medical data to use in patient care, billing, and reporting.

Your EHR should have tools to reduce the number of coding challenges. EHR systems should increase coder efficiency and eliminate the need to hire additional coders during and after the transition. If you do not have the right technology in place before the deadline, your practice will experience a drain on both revenue and staff productivity. Therefore, your software should allow physicians and staff to easily look up and apply the ICD-10 codes needed.

Additionally, EHR should aid in creating complete, detailed patient documentation. Physicians have always strove to create accurate patient charts, but the task may seem daunting with ICD-10 codes and an expectation of increased specificity. EHR systems should provide point-and-click options to apply treatment codes and make chart notes. Remember, your time should be spent engaging with patients, not searching through screens of ICD-10 codes.

“Don't risk your practice's financial health on systems that meet only some of your needs.”

#3 Ensure EHR software facilitates clinical information exchange

When the federal government passed legislation to reform health care information technology, the reporting and exchange of patient information was a primary focus. An important consideration is how EHR technology will manage the data from other providers and health information exchanges (HIE).

When a patient visits a private practice, the clinician may access health information from a variety of different entities. This data is invaluable to providers in creating a comprehensive treatment plan; however, the amount of data could potentially slow down workflow while the provider searches through droves of information.

Powerful EHR software makes this data an invaluable asset to patient care by intelligently organizing shared information. A private practice's technology should present clinicians with applicable information in an easy-to-use format during the patient visit. Physicians should be able to review relevant information without sifting through pages of data.



#4 Check for intelligent mapping & prompting

An EHR system should enhance the patient's experience, not complicate it. Systems that provide intelligent mapping and prompting will allow the provider to easily code and chart. Based on a patient's history, current findings, and documentation, EHR software should suggest proposed ICD-10 codes.

Physicians can focus on engaging with the patients rather than worrying about coding proficiency or manually hunting through data screens. Intelligent mapping and prompting will reduce the time spent manually updating a patient's chart or charge slip.



#5 Select an EHR system that will support future requirement updates

An EHR system can be a powerful tool with ICD-10; it can also be a hindrance. Selecting an EHR system that is capable of fully supporting ICD-10 may be one of the most important decisions you make – but that is just a start. Be sure it will accommodate future regulatory changes.

through simple upgrades. A powerful EHR system can be updated without causing major disruption to your daily operations or to patient care. When evaluating a new system, be sure it can be modified to address future needs.

EHR systems must be adaptable to new requirements

Conclusion

Expect more from your EHR. You may think it is unrealistic to expect an EHR to have this level of sophistication – you shouldn't. Your EHR must provide you with tools that meet Meaningful Use requirements, maximize office efficiency, and aid you in the ICD-10 conversion. Don't risk your practice's financial health on systems that meet only some of your needs.

ICD-10 and EHR implementation will cause significant changes to your medical office. However, taking the time to choose the right EHR will save you time, money, and energy in the end. Make sure your software will simplify ICD-10 – not complicate it.

AdvancedMD is the perfect partner for you in both ICD-10 and EHR implementation. Without the proper tools, you can expect major disruptions to your practice when the deadline arrives – can you afford to risk it? AdvancedMD EHR and practice management software is your unified solution to a stable, streamlined private practice.

Give your practice an advantage with AdvancedMD.

- Smoothly manage ICD-10 with minimal disruption
- Eliminate the costs and hassles of server-based software and hardware
- Provide high-quality of care with access to shared health information
- Increase proficiency and accuracy with an easy-to-learn, easy-to-use interface