

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton  
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology  
Hearing on “Examining ICD-10 Implementation”  
February 11, 2015**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

Today the Subcommittee will examine the implementation of ICD-10 – the latest coding system for health care providers to use for reimbursements and other purposes – set to happen on October 1st of this year. Today’s hearing is an opportunity to learn more about what ICD-10 is, how it can help patients and our health care system, and whether stakeholders are prepared for its implementation later this year.

The United States is one of the few countries that has yet to adopt this most modern coding system. Australia was the first country to adopt ICD-10 in 1998. Since then, Canada, China, France, Germany, Korea, South Africa, and Thailand – just to name a few – have all also implemented ICD-10. In the United States, Congress, through one vehicle or another, has prevented the adoption of ICD-10 for nearly a decade.

Under law, ICD-10 is set to become the coding system of the United States on October 1, 2015. Understanding that the reasons for delay in the past have been credited to preparedness, today we look forward to hearing from the witnesses on their plans for implementing ICD-10 later this year.

I thank the witnesses for their testimony and recommendations.

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