

Opening Statement of the Honorable Joseph R. Pitts
Subcommittee on Health
Hearing on “Examining ICD-10 Implementation”
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(As Prepared for Delivery)

The United States currently operates under the International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision (ICD-9) code set, which has about 13,000 diagnostic codes.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) had set a mandatory deadline of October 1, 2013 for providers to switch from ICD-9 to the greatly expanded ICD, 10th Revision (ICD-10) code set, which has 68,000 diagnostic codes and 87,000 procedural codes.

Section 212 of H.R. 4302, the Protecting Access to Medicare Act, signed into law by President Barack Obama on April 1, 2014, delayed the transition to ICD-10 until October 1, 2015.

Many providers and payers, including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, have already made considerable investments in the ICD-10 transition, and any further delay will entail additional costs to keep ICD-9 systems current, to re-train employees, and to prepare, again, for the transition.

The United States currently lags behind most of the rest of the world, which already uses the updated ICD-10.

ICD-9 is more than thirty years old and does not capture the data needed to track changes in modern medical practice and healthcare delivery.

I would like to welcome all of our witnesses today. We look forward to your testimony on this important subject.

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