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WEDI Responds to CMS ICD-10 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

RESTON, VA, May 16, 2012 - The Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI), the leading authority on the use of Health IT to improve the exchange of healthcare information, announced submission of a response letter to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding the ICD-10 related content of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Federal Register. The notice proposes an extension of the ICD-10 compliance date from October 1, 2013 to October 1, 2014.

While WEDI's membership could not reach complete agreement on whether an extension is warranted or how long the extension should be, it is apparent that any extension of time should be put to good use, allowing for more robust assessments, remediation and testing. Additionally, it would provide additional time for vendors to deliver products essential to compliance efforts.

The letter to CMS also restates a conclusion by a WEDI Policy Advisory Group held in September 2008: regardless of the compliance date, the cutover to ICD-10 should begin on a single date and not be staggered. WEDI believes that upholding a single compliance date will facilitate industry implementation by not requiring trading partners to use different code sets on varying dates according to payer or provider readiness.

WEDI has conducted ICD-10 readiness surveys to measure the progress of industry compliance since 2009. As an advisor to HHS under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), WEDI brings to the attention of CMS issues that it believes warrant review and consideration from the Secretary of Health and Human Services. WEDI will continue to conduct surveys to assess industry readiness. Information collected from these surveys will be used to monitor progress and to help the industry achieve compliance.

About WEDI

The Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI) is the leading authority on the use of Health IT to improve healthcare information exchange in order to enhance the quality of care, improve efficiency and to reduce costs of our nation's healthcare system. WEDI was formed in 1991 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) and was designated in the 1996 HIPAA legislation as an advisor to HHS. WEDI's membership includes a broad coalition of organizations, including: hospitals, providers, health plans, vendors, government agencies, consumers, not-for-profit organizations and standards bodies.

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