

THE ROAD TO ICD-10

THE MEDICAL RECORD

When considering how ICD-10 will impact your role, it is essential that we look at the medical record.

The medical record follows the patient through each step of the healthcare encounter and serves many uses and purposes. Its function varies as it passes from one healthcare professional to the next, through financial and clinical channels.

It is important to understand this diverse utilization and how the medical record's purpose changes, just as the impact of ICD-10 will change with each process in the journey. The transition to ICD-10 is critical to the success of the electronic medical record and meeting the objectives of Meaningful Use (MU).

What the Medical Record means to different people

- Evidence of how the organization and its practitioners perform their clinical and administrative responsibilities (Joint Commission, CMS)
- Documentation of care plans and discharge planning (Nursing)
- A way for different caregivers to communicate concerning treatments and responses to treatment that occurred during the encounter (Physicians)
- Compilation of a patient medical history (Ancillary Staff)
- Research data (Pharmaceutical Companies and Government)
- What was done to me (Patient)
- A legal document (Subpoena)
- Reimbursement (Billing)