# Preparing for **ICD-10**

## The Facts

**68,000** CODES

**OCT 15 1st**

- ICD-10 has been used by some countries for over a decade.
- ICD-10 can expand to over 68,000 codes. ICD-9 has 13,000 codes.
- Transition date begins Oct. 1, 2015.

### PROS

- Provides more specific information about the diagnosis, leading to more precise and accurate coding
- Offers flexibility for expansion and includes new technologies and diagnoses
- Benefits of implementation will outweigh the costs
- Reflects advances in medicine and uses current medical terminology

### CONS

- Costs of converting could be substantial
- Physicians may be clinically less productive after implementation
- Changes to clinical documentation could be overwhelming
- Transaction processing may be slowed, creating cash flow interruptions

## The Impact

ICD-10 will affect every aspect of a medical practice.
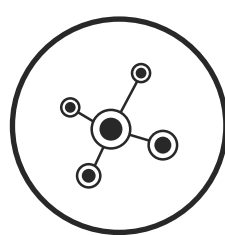
**Physicians:** Documentation, Code Training

**Nurses:** Forms, Documentation, Prior Authorization

**Lab:** Documentation, Reporting

**Billing:** Policies and Procedures, Training

**Coding:** Code Set, Clinical Knowledge, Concurrent Use

**Front Desk:** HIPAA, Systems

**Managers:** New Policies & Procedures, Vendor & Payer Contracts, Budgets, Training Plan

**Clinical Area:** Patient Coverage, Superbills, ABNs
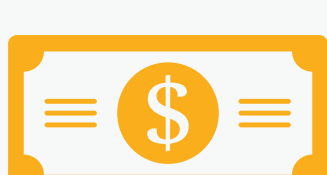
## The Preparation

1. Engage with vendor. Find out where they are in the implementation process and how it will affect you.

2. Review your process often. Make sure important issues are being addressed.

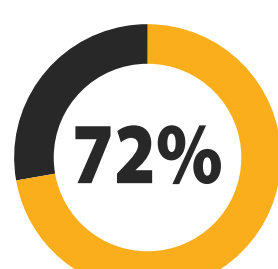3. Educate staff members. Everyone will need some level of training.

4. Improve your documentation. Records should be documented with the highest level of specificity under current regulations.

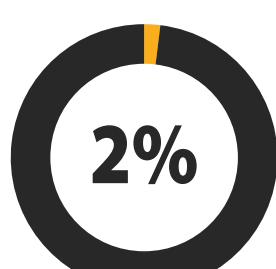5. Query the health plans you contract with.

## The Cost of Implementation

According to an AAPC member survey, per provider costs have been more manageable than many had speculated.

**72%**
72% spent less than $5,000 per provider.

**2%**
2% spent $5,000 - $10,000 per provider.

AAPC estimates costs of $750 to $3,500 per provider, depending on the size of the practice.