

October 2014 Set as ICD-10 Implementation Date

The final rule setting the ICD-10 implementation date as October 1, 2014, has been released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The rule, which will be published in the *Federal Register* September 5, ends months of speculation spawned when public comment was solicited by CMS in April. The rule, which also sets dates for health plan and physician identifiers, emphasizes practices and payers must adopt the code set by the 2014 date, which is a one-year delay from the previous implementation date. The rule explains that the one-year postponement allows physicians and payers additional time to implement the new code set.

Source: MSD

CMS Releases Final Rule for Meaningful Use Stage 2

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the final rule outlining the requirements for the second stage of the "Meaningful Use" Electronic Health Records (EHR) Incentive Program. This Stage 2 rule builds on the Stage 1 requirements and outlines the payment adjustment portion of the program starting in 2015. The Stage 2 rule:

- Delays the start of Stage 2 from 2013 to 2014.
- Reduces the time span over which all eligible professionals (EPs) and eligible hospitals must demonstrate meaningful use in 2014 from a full year to 3 months.
- Requires that all EPs in their second year or more of participation report on clinical quality measure data electronically, starting in 2014.
- Eliminates or combines some Stage 1 objectives.
- Finalizes several categories of hardship exemptions.

Read the CMS fact sheet on final rule at <http://tinyurl.com/8gwz68h>.

Source: MSD

New Doctor for Nephrology Consultants

On behalf of Nephrology Consultants, it is our pleasure to announce that **Dr. Dhruval Patel** has joined **Dr. Manish Garg** and **Dr. Saleem Bharmal** as an associate with Nephrology Consultants.

Dr. Patel completed his Internal Medicine residency from Monmouth Medical Center, a major teaching affiliate of Drexel University College of Medicine. He completed his nephrology fellowship at State University of New York at Upstate Medical University. He is board certified in Internal Medicine. He is licensed to practice medicine in states of Delaware and Maryland. He is

member of American Society of Nephrology and National Kidney Foundation. He co-authored a chapter on inherited magnesium disorder in book "Genetics of Bone Biology and Skeletal Disease" and published an article on Anti GBM Disease. He has presented posters and abstracts at National Kidney Foundation and Institute of Healthcare Improvement meetings. He is the recipient of National Scholarship award, Excellent Performance Scholarship award during his residency and Quality Champion award from Saint Barnabas Healthcare. <http://nephrologyconsultants.org/our-team.html>

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Dhruval Patel to Nephrology consultants and for more info you can visit <http://nephrologyconsultants.org>

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