

carenews

together we are transforming the future of health care

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In this issue:



Good day!

These days are certainly full with budget preparations, Cerner and Epic installations, data requests and meetings, care management and re-design, not to mention the ordinary—or should I say extraordinary?—work we do caring for patients and their families. Yet, looming on the horizon is an event, albeit virtual, of momentous consequence. October 1, 2015 marks the day we transition over to the ICD-10 coding system.

As many of you know, ICD refers to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases. While much of the world already functions within the ICD-10 standard, the United States now uses the ninth iteration of ICD that includes about 17,000 classifications. When we shift to the new system, we will be grappling with some 155,000 diagnosis and procedure codes, with some truly mind boggling dimensions of specificity and some rather esoteric descriptions of possible health issues.

So, just how important is it that we focus on ICD-10 in relation to the myriad issues we face day-to-day?

According to an article¹ on why ICD-10 is worth the trouble, the benefits are many:

- Quality measurement and medical error reduction (patient safety)
- Outcomes measurement
- Clinical research
- Clinical, financial and administrative performance measurement
- Health policy planning
- Operational and strategic planning and health care delivery systems design
- Payment systems design and claims processing
- Reporting on use and effects of new medical technology
- Provider profiling
- Refinements to current reimbursement systems, such as severity-adjusted DRG systems
- Pay-for-performance programs
- Public health and bioterrorism monitoring
- Managing care and disease processes
- Educating consumers on costs and outcomes of treatment options

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The bottom line is this: how we code is essential to the care we deliver. What could be more important?

This is why it is absolutely critical that all of our clinicians and key staff take time now to learn and prepare for the ICD-10 conversion.

The good news is that Care New England has conducted a thorough review of the most valuable training tools in the marketplace and invested in a product to facilitate our education and training. The Precyse tool offers us a series of tailored learning modules that will be available to all employed and network clinicians as well as to our affiliated community practices on an opt-in basis. It enables our staff to access information on the device of their preference.

Clinicians can follow the suggested pace of learning by adhering to the phased schedule: the first run is ICD-10 General, the second is Coding Nuts & Bolts, and the third is Specialties. Each training phase must be completed before progressing to the next. The training exercise should take no more than five hours in total.

Email notices have gone out with specific instructions on how to access the system—and another reminder mailing is scheduled to be deployed this week both in hard copy and electronic form. We are asking all of our physicians and mid-level providers to complete the first leg of this compulsory training by July 15 and the entirety of the training by August 31.

If you have any questions about the Precyse tool or any other aspect of training, please call on the following operating unit-based individuals who are standing by to help:

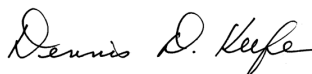
OU	Support	Support E-Mail
Affinity & Health Care Alliance	Katherine Berky	KBerky@CareNE.org x31897
CNE	Catherine Watkinson	CWatkinson@CareNE.org x11341
Women & Infants	Catherine Watkinson	CWatkinson@CareNE.org x11341
Kent	Tanya Succi	TSucci@CareNE.org x11283
Butler	Tanya Succi	TSucci@CareNE.org x11283
Memorial	Jose Martinez	JBMartinez@CareNE.org x11273
VNA	Jose Martinez	JBMartinez@CareNE.org x11273

We have also sent a separate letter to community physicians with hospital privileges about this training tool. If they are interested in availing themselves of this opportunity to learn more about how ICD-10 is vital to their practices, they should contact one of the staff named above.

As we face a new future, the way we code is an underpinning of our success. Failing to code correctly might create medical record and billing backlogs that could increase claim rejections and ultimately impede our cash flow. But, more importantly, it might also result in misinterpretation of medical information about patient care that could impact decisions about health care delivery. Please do your part to help us prepare.

Have a great week ahead!

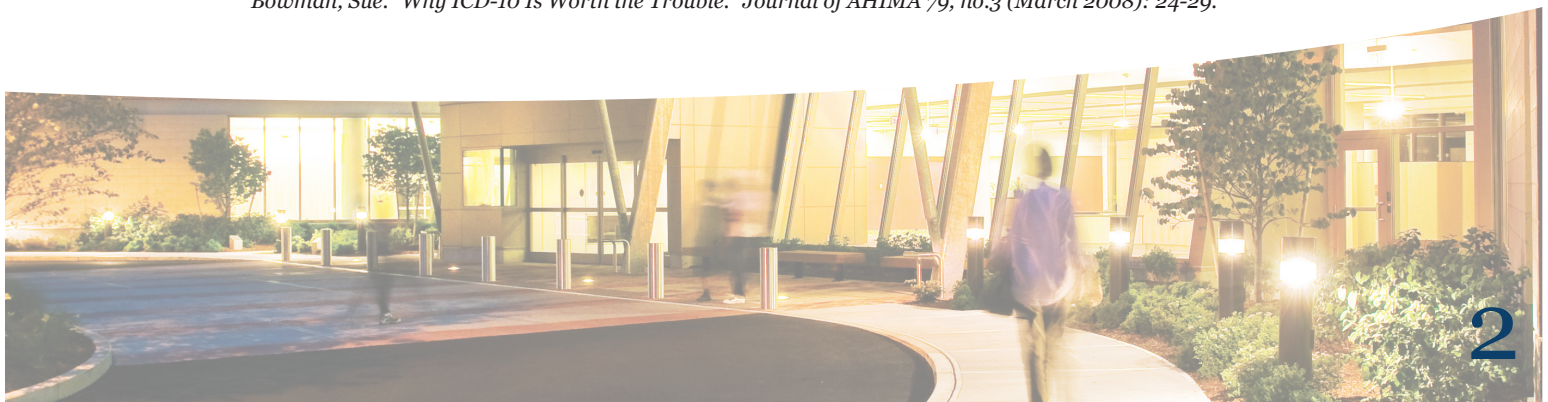
Sincerely,



Dennis D. Keefe
President and Chief Executive Officer



¹Bowman, Sue. "Why ICD-10 Is Worth the Trouble." *Journal of AHIMA* 79, no.3 (March 2008): 24-29.



CNE creates Comprehensive Sports Concussion Center

A concussion is a brain injury resulting from trauma to the head or neck. Sports concussion has recently received increased attention nationwide, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 1.6 to 3.8 million Americans of all ages get a concussion each year during recreational activities and sports like football and soccer. Recovery takes time and medical care.



In the face of this growing problem and in an effort to help people of all ages suffering from concussion, Care New England has drawn together a team of medical experts to create the region's only Comprehensive Sports Concussion Center. This team works together to treat all aspects of sports concussion. "Concussions are much more concerning than people once believed. It's a traumatic injury to the brain, and it can lead to many problems that can linger for a significant amount of time after the injury," explains Jeffrey Manning, MD, the medical director of Affinity Sports Medicine.

Regardless of the cause, a concussion temporarily changes how a person's brain cells function. If a concussion is not identified and managed early, it can lead to more serious problems or even re-injury. "There's no one treatment for concussion because the injury varies from one person to the next," adds David Bica, MD, also of Affinity Sports Medicine. "We treat each person individually, depending on the severity of their injury and how long it lasts."

Patients referred to the Center will initially see a physician with Affinity Sports Medicine and may be referred to other specialists with the Center, including:

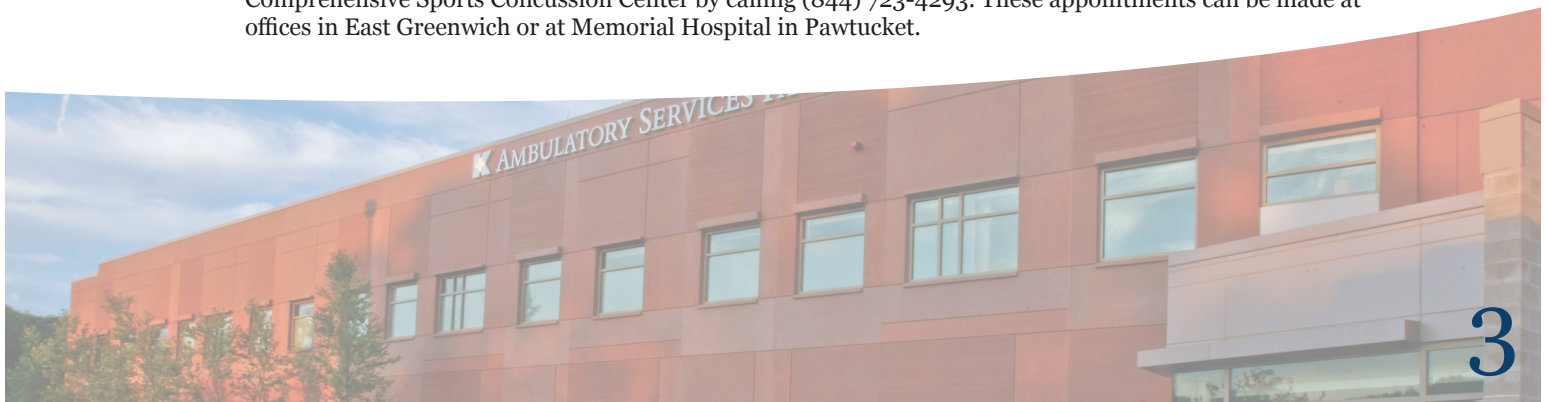
- Pediatric and adult neuropsychologists who understand the relationship between the brain and behavior.
- Neurologists who specialize in the treatment of injury and diseases of the brain and nervous system.
- Psychologists who can help patients develop coping strategies for depression, anxiety or pain that may occur after a concussion.
- Speech-language pathologists who can determine the person's ability to communicate effectively. In addition, they can identify if any accommodations are needed for the person's home, work or school. Ongoing cognitive communication therapy can be provided if needed.
- Physical therapists who can create an individualized treatment program based on exercise tolerance testing. The physical therapists can also help patients return to baseline function by treating cervical pain, improving strength and/or vestibular deficits.

Each concussion is different and may include any of the following signs and symptoms:

- Headache.
- Nausea.
- Balance problems or dizziness.
- Double or blurred vision.
- Sensitivity to light or noise.
- Feeling slowed down or mentally "foggy."
- Fatigue or changes in sleep pattern.
- Concentration or memory problems.

"Many people go untreated for concussion, believing that the symptoms will correct themselves. It is valuable to see a medical professional with training in the treatment of concussion to avoid unnecessary suffering," explains Amity Rubeor, DO, of Affinity Sports Medicine.

Anyone with such symptoms can make an appointment to be seen by experts with the Care New England Comprehensive Sports Concussion Center by calling (844) 723-4293. These appointments can be made at offices in East Greenwich or at Memorial Hospital in Pawtucket.



Eliminating early elective deliveries at Care New England

Reducing early elective deliveries continues to be a topic of national conversation and was one of the most successful areas for the recent Partnership for Patients demonstration project sponsored by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The findings were clear regarding the risks of unnecessary elective deliveries scheduled between 37 and 39 weeks when compared with improved outcomes at 39 weeks or beyond.



In a recent webinar hosted by America's Essential Hospitals, representatives from Care New England and Women & Infants discussed the importance of eliminating early elective deliveries and the strategies implemented to improve outcomes. Participants included Raymond Powrie, MD, chief medical quality officer, Care New England and interim chief of medicine, Women & Infants; James O'Brien, MD, medical director of inpatient obstetrics, Women & Infants; and Robert M. Insoft, MD, senior vice president of quality and clinical effectiveness, chief medical officer and staff neonatologist, Women & Infants. They spoke of the effort spearheaded by Women & Infants over the last four years which has virtually eliminated early term elective deliveries across Care New England.

America's Essential Hospitals is the leading association and champion for hospitals and health systems dedicated to high-quality care for all, including the most vulnerable. Since 1981, America's Essential Hospitals has initiated, advanced, and preserved programs and policies that help these hospitals ensure access to care. AEH supports members with advocacy, policy development, research, and education. For more information visit <http://essentialhospitals.org>.

Memorial honors cancer survivors

Memorial Hospital honored more than 175 cancer survivors and their families during their Cancer Survivors Social held at the hospital on Sunday, June 14. The theme of the day's event was "Wings of Hope Celebrating Life," highlighted by inspirational words about courage, strength and hope from doctors, community leaders, volunteers and cancer survivors. The event also featured an ice-cream social, massages, give-aways and entertainment by Nigel Richards and Layla Vafiadis, high school students from the Jacqueline Walsh School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Pawtucket, who performed two songs accompanied by guitar. Cancer care information was also provided by The Cancer Center at Memorial Hospital, nutritionists from Memorial, American Cancer Society, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, The Pawtucket Cancer Control Taskforce, The Colon Cancer Alliance and the VNA of Care New England.



Pictured left to right is Mayor Donald R. Grebien, City of Pawtucket, presenting the City of Pawtucket's Proclamation in honor of National Cancer Survivors Day to President and COO of Memorial Hospital, Edward Schottland and Anthony Thomas, DO, chief of hematology/oncology, The Cancer Center at Memorial Hospital.

Care New England, Kent Hospital and VNA of Care New England honor volunteers

At a recent event held at the West Valley Inn, Care New England, Kent Hospital and the VNA of Care New England celebrated more than 330 volunteers who are instrumental in the care provided to patients, visitors and staff. These active volunteers donated more than 53,000 hours of service for 2014 to 2015.

"The volunteers at our hospitals enhance the patients', visitors' and staff experience, they are such an important part of our organization," said Michael Dacey, MD, MS, FACP, president and COO Kent Hospital. "These volunteers come to our hospital every day, dedicating countless hours of their personal time to our community. For that, Care New England, Kent Hospital and the VNA of Care New England are extremely grateful for their hard work and dedication."

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The following volunteers were selected as 2014-2015 award recipients:

Kent Hospital Bright Idea Award, Neil and Karlyn Janson, Warwick, RI, Emergency Department volunteers; Kent Hospital Make It Happen Award, Bruce Bishop, Warwick, RI, Emergency Department volunteer; Kent Hospital Unsung Hero Award, Anna Scialla, West Warwick, RI, Pre Admission Testing; Kent Hospital Hannah Hayes Volunteer of the Year Award, Jane Caron, Warwick, RI, Wound Recovery Center.

Kent Hospital's long history of volunteerism began in 1958 when just 17 volunteers, known as "candy stripers," joined the hospital. Today, the volunteer program for Care New England, Kent and the VNA of Care New England have hundreds of volunteers who remain integral in helping the hospital serve the community.



Pictured left to right: Robert Mark Nicholes, Wound Center program director; Jane Caron, Volunteer of the Year; Elaine Fish, volunteer services coordinator; Michael Dacey, MD, MS, FACP, president and COO Kent Hospital.

Women & Infants' physician named to international committee

Dr. Vivian Sung of Women & Infants' Division of Urogynecology and Reconstructive Pelvic Surgery, has been selected to serve on the International Urogynecological Association Terminology and Standardization Committee. The committee, which is comprised of 10 members selected from across the globe, is responsible for the development, publication and management of international documents aimed at standardizing the terminology, classification and outcomes for the field of female pelvic disorders. The committee frequently collaborates with other international organizations, including the International Continence Society, to develop joint reports for the field. Of note, Dr. Sung has also been named president-elect of the Society of Gynecologic Surgeons.



Padbury honored with 'Silver Rattle'

Dr. Jim Padbury, Women & Infants' pediatrician-in-chief and chief of Neonatal/Perinatal Medicine at Women & Infants and the William and Mary Oh-William and Elsa Zopfi Professor of Pediatrics for Perinatal Research at the Alpert Medical School, was honored with the Silver Rattle Award from the Rhode Island Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition at the coalition's annual May Breakfast. Since 2001, the Silver Rattle Award has been given to someone or an organization that has "shaken up the system for Rhode Island mothers and babies." Dr. Padbury was awarded by the coalition specifically for his continued efforts to develop our single-family room NICU. 