



HEAL Coalition ALERT: ICD-10 Deadline Passes House – Are Your Schools Ready?

Last week, the House of Representatives passed legislation that may have a significant impact on many allied health programs. A health IT bill (HR 4157) provided an October 2010 deadline for nationwide conversion to the latest version of the International Classification of Diseases. This tenth and latest version (ICD-10) would expand from 24,000 to more than 200,000 the number of billing codes used by physicians' offices and health insurance companies nationwide. This development raises several concerns for allied health schools who have medical billing and coding programs:

- 1) Do your schools currently have the technical and other capacities properly to train students in the ICD-10 standard? What types of resources will be needed for schools to make this conversion?
- 2) How will the greater number of billing codes in the ICD-10 standard – and the technical skills required to analyze and process them – impact your institution's programs?
- 3) Does your school want to know more about how ICD-10 provisions and other legislation will have an impact on your programs – and be able to have a meaningful voice in determining their outcome?

Members of the House and Senate are scheduled to meet in the coming weeks in order to arrive at final legislative language yet this year. If this issue is important to your institution and students, please join the HEAL Coalition today and together we can influence the future of this legislation in Congress.

If you are interested in joining us, or would like more information regarding the HEAL Coalition, contact Executive Director Tom Netting at (202) 626-8553.