IFHIMA Launches ICD-11 Whitepaper Workgroup

As all HIM professionals know, ICD-11 is the eleventh revision of the International Classification of Diseases. It will eventually replace ICD-10 as the global standard for coding health information and causes of death. In May 2019, ICD-11 was officially endorsed by all WHO members during the 72nd World Health Assembly. It will officially come into effect on January 1, 2022 at which time member nations may begin reporting morbidity and mortality statistics using ICD-11.

Given that ICD-11 is looming on the healthcare horizon, the IFHIMA Board of Directors approved forming a workgroup charged with creating a whitepaper to educate IFHIMA members and other key stakeholders on ICD-11 and the role of health information professionals. Chaired by Ann Chenoweth, MBA, RHIA, FAHIMA, this workgroup includes representatives from around the globe, including Canada, Australia, Barbados, Africa, Indonesia, United States, Japan, Spain, Saudi Arabia and South Korea.

The goals of the ICD-11 whitepaper are the following:
1. Demonstrate Health Information thought leadership in this core practice area,
2. Influence industry stakeholders to include health information professionals in ICD-11 planning and implementation (by demonstrating our credibility, skills and expertise),
3. Advance the global understanding of the value of ICD-11 throughout the world,
4. Help countries prepare for ICD-11, and
5. Educate audiences on ICD-11 development/implementation strategies and how they vary throughout the world, including developing nations.

During the workgroup's kick-off meeting in April, the target audiences for the whitepaper were identified:
1. World Health Organization (WHO) leadership team and other key stakeholders
2. Ministries of health, statistical agencies and government officials responsible for ICD planning, implementation and reporting
3. Health information professionals around the globe

Many countries are in the process of reviewing projected timelines and resources needed to prepare for the transition to ICD-11. Health information professionals play a critical role. Now is the time to become knowledgeable about ICD-11 and inform the conversations within your countries and your organizations.

IFHIMA's ICD-11 Whitepaper is expected to be published in October 2020.

Submitted by:
Ann Chenoweth, MBA, RHIA, FAHIMA
AHIMA National Director to IFHIMA