New West Sports Medicine & Orthopaedic Surgery, Kearney, Neb., is a seven-surgeon practice with seven physician assistants (PAs) and four athletic trainers (ATs). It’s also ready to face the challenges presented by the transition to the International Classification of Diseases, 10th edition (ICD-10) in October. The success is based on one word: TEAMWORK. Their ICD-10 transition team is a tour de force for leading and motivating the entire practice.

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ICD-10: The Documentation Is in the Details

Margaret Maley, BSN, MS

ICD-10: The Documentation Is in the Details – March 2014
by Margaret M. Maley, BSN, MS

The format and structure of ICD-9 and ICD-10 codes (Fig. 1) are so completely different that it is difficult to believe that in just a few months they will be used for the same purpose. When educating AAOS members about the transition to ICD-10, I and others have found that is it best to start with something familiar.

Then and now
In ICD-9, many orthopaedic codes began with the number 7 or 8. These numbers correspond with the chapters in ICD-9 that include diagnosis codes of a particular kind or category. In ICD-9, codes beginning with the number 7 are found in chapter 13: Diseases of the Musculoskeletal System and Connective Tissue and range from 710 to 739.

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Author’s Note: The content of the e-mail examples presented in this article is from actual online discussions. Practice and participant names and contact information have been changed.

Thanks to Arlene’s question, posted to an orthopedic listserv group, Surgical Specialists has just sent an open invitation to any auditor or whistleblower who knows how to perform a simple Google search. The invitation reads, You Are Cordially Invited to ... Audit Our Practice!