

# Coalition for ICD-10

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## New Survey of Small Physician Practices Reveals Significantly Lower Cost for ICD-10 Transition

by Coalition for ICD-10 on February 10, 2015



**Lady Lake, Fla. (February 10, 2015)**— Financial barriers to ICD-10 implementation for the small physician practice are dramatically less than originally projected, according to a new study released today by the Professional Association of Health Care Office Management (PAHCOM). The survey of 276 physician

practices of fewer than six providers revealed that total ICD-10 related costs for an entire practice averaged \$8,167. Per provider expenditures averaged \$3,430.

The survey results were published today in the [Journal of AHIMA](#) and will be presented by PAHCOM at a congressional briefing hosted by the Coalition for ICD-10 at 1:30pm ET this afternoon, Room 2175 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

“We hear so much conflicting information about the impact of ICD-10 on the small physician practice. Our goal was to bring some clarity to the discussion by surveying our members—office managers who represent hundreds of solo physician and small group physician practices across the United States,” said Karen Blanchette, MBA, association director of PAHCOM. “Our members reported actual data on expenses to date and costs still remaining. The PAHCOM survey is the most comprehensive and current data on ICD-10 implementation costs actually being incurred by small physician practices.”

Survey respondents were asked to specify the number of providers in the practice, where a provider was defined as a direct care giver including physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners. Survey questions on total expenditures for all ICD-10 related activities specifically highlighted the cost of ICD-10 manuals and documentation, ICD-10 training costs, the cost of superbill conversion, software system upgrades, and testing.

As noted in the survey report, the ICD-10 expenditures are similar to those reported in two other recent industry studies and are significantly lower than [earlier estimates](#) that predicted ICD-10 implementation costs of \$22,560-\$105,506 for small physician practices.

The published study, “Survey of ICD-10 Implementation Costs in Small Physician Offices,” was co-authored by Blanchette, Richard Averill, MS, senior vice president, Public Policy for 3M Health Information Systems, and Susan Bowman, MJ, RHIA, CCS, senior director, Coding Policy and



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### IT'S TIME TO MOVE TO ICD-10, NOT FOR ANOTHER DELAY

In this blog from *Physicians Practice*, **Michael Lee, MD, MBA**, writes that organizations are ready for ICD-10 implementation. The physician, from Atrius Health, urges the industry to continue ICD-10 implementation efforts.

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Questions about the Coalition?

Compliance for the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA).

### About PAHCOM

The Professional Association of Health Care Office Management (PAHCOM) is a national organization dedicated to promoting professionalism in physician office practice management by providing professional development opportunities including continuing education, networking, online tools & resources, and nationally recognized certification (CMM) for health care office managers. The organization supports more than 3,000 solo physician and small group physician practices across the United States through successfully executed communication of best practices, industry standards, and educational opportunities. PAHCOM is the single most effective means for small group or solo physician practice managers to obtain support and strengthen their professional growth. For more information, visit [pahcom.com](http://pahcom.com), or follow on Twitter [@PAHCOM](https://twitter.com/PAHCOM).

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In this *MLN Connects™* video, **Sue Bowman** from the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) and **Nelly Leon-Chisen** from the American Hospital Association (AHA) provide a basic introduction to ICD-10-CM coding.



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