



**CALIFORNIA
HOSPITAL
ASSOCIATION**

*Providing Leadership in
Health Policy and Advocacy*

February 4, 2015

The Honorable Tony Cardenas
1510 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Cardenas,

On behalf of more than 400 member hospitals and health systems, the California Hospital Association (CHA) strongly supports the announced October 1, 2015 ICD-10 compliance date. After multiple delays, the current compliance date provides ample time for health care entities to prepare for the transition, educate clinical and administrative staff, upgrade all technology and conduct the necessary testing to ensure successful implementation.

Importantly, CHA opposes any steps to delay this implementation date. California hospitals made significant investments in preparing for the October 2014 implementation, and the delay added millions of dollars in extra costs. Many hospitals had to reconfigure systems and processes that were prepared to use ICD-10 back to ICD-9. Coders who were newly trained to use ICD-10 had to be retrained back to use ICD-9 and training of existing coders had to be repeated as a result of the delay. Any further delays would only add additional costs to the vast majority of hospitals that have already spent tremendous resources preparing for the 2015 implementation date.

ICD-10 implementation delays have been disruptive and costly to California hospitals. In addition, the delays have stalled health care delivery innovation and disrupted payment reform. Any further delays would only hinder the momentum toward implementation, and the resources dedicated to the transition would likely be diverted elsewhere, making the process more difficult.

California hospitals are committed to and believe strongly in the importance of moving to ICD-10 on October 1, 2015. We urge Congress to avoid any further delays of this needed coding update.

If you have any questions, please contact Anne O'Rourke, senior vice president federal relations, at aorourke@calhospital.org, or (202) 488-4494.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Duane Dauner".

C. Duane Dauner
President and CEO